

Hurd says no question of going back on military policy despite internment threat

UN is urged to act on Britons held in Kuwait

By JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK AND MICHAEL KNIFE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE UN Security Council yesterday called on its secretary general to act on the plight of thousands of foreigners held in Kuwait and Iraq.

The council, summoned by Britain, expressed anxiety and concern about the people being detained and asked Javier Pérez de Cuéllar to take "all steps he considers appropriate".

The European Community and ten other nations have already asked that a UN emissary be sent to Baghdad to help to secure foreigners' release and the message has been passed to Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, who is in Peru.

The British government fears the four thousand Britons ordered to report to hotels in Kuwait on Thursday might be interned and used as pawns by Iraq, but Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, insisted yesterday that there was no question of Britain going back on its military policy because of their plight.

Iraq was using British citizens to try to weaken the government's resolve, he said. That was the tactic of outlaws down the ages and it would have no effect. He had no evidence that their lives were at risk.

Britain was still seeking an explanation from the Iraqis of their intentions; Britons who assembled at the Regency Palace hotel in Kuwait City had found no Iraqis there to give them instructions.

However, there were reports that foreigners, including Britons and 35 Americans, had been moved from the Hotel al-Rashid in Baghdad where they had been held under armed guard. Diplomats protested to the Iraqi consular department after being refused access to them and to Westerners at the Mansour Melia hotel, where about 200 Britons are staying, Iraq said they were all safe.

About 2,500 Americans were covered by the order to report to Kuwaiti hotels on Thursday, and yesterday Iraq told Japan that its citizens would not be allowed to leave Iraq or Kuwait. The stream of other foreigners crossing to Jordan continued, however, and more than 16,000 made their escape from Iraq yesterday. Twenty-five Britons

reached Saudi Arabia, having crossed the desert crammed into four vehicles.

Labour accused the government of unnecessarily alarming the relatives of Britons stranded in Kuwait by reacting "precipitately" to the Iraqi call for a round-up on Thursday. But Mr Hurd defended

every day to consider a Soviet proposal to revive the military staff committee to co-ordinate naval action in the Gulf, but none of the five will consider seeking a further resolution to impose a UN blockade before the secretary general has completed his report on how the sanctions are working.

The American force established to police the sanctions and defend Saudi Arabia continued to grow yesterday and an armada of two aircraft carriers and twenty other ships threw a radar fence across the mouth of the Gulf and the northern Red Sea. The ships have orders to use force if necessary to stop goods entering or leaving Iraq.

Britain is ready to increase its fighter strength in the region after receiving clear signals that its role is welcomed by Gulf leaders. Alan Clark, the minister for defence procurement, said Bahrain had invited Britain to re-deploy some of its aircraft to use the country's facilities.

Iraq yesterday began moving its troops from Iran in accordance with its peace offer. It also pulled back armoured and engineering equipment, and released the first Iranian prisoners of war.

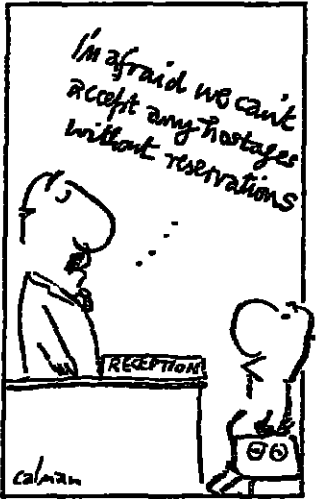
As Iraq attempted to make peace with its old enemy, it made fresh threats to America. "No mercy will be shown to American pilots whose bodies will be torn to pieces wherever they fall so that their soul will go to hell," the government newspaper *al-Jumhuriya* said. "Nothing will remain from their bodies to be shrouded in US flags."

Israeli officials said yesterday that war was inevitable unless President Saddam Hussein withdrew from Kuwait, but Egypt's President Mubarak said it was not too late to avoid fighting. "There is still time. I'm asking Iraq to respond to the voice of peace to avoid confrontation and bloodshed."

The Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, broke his public silence on the crisis to describe the situation as complex and explosive. The Soviet Union would do all it could to ensure that the UN resolutions were fulfilled "in their entirety". He pointedly declined to criticise the American build-up in Saudi Arabia and said that Moscow regarded the American presence there as temporary. "If the tension continues, the security council will take more positive and more decisive action."

Mr Hurd also defended the policy of stopping and searching ships to enforce the sanctions and said neither Britain nor America had ruled out using other measures under other parts of the UN Charter.

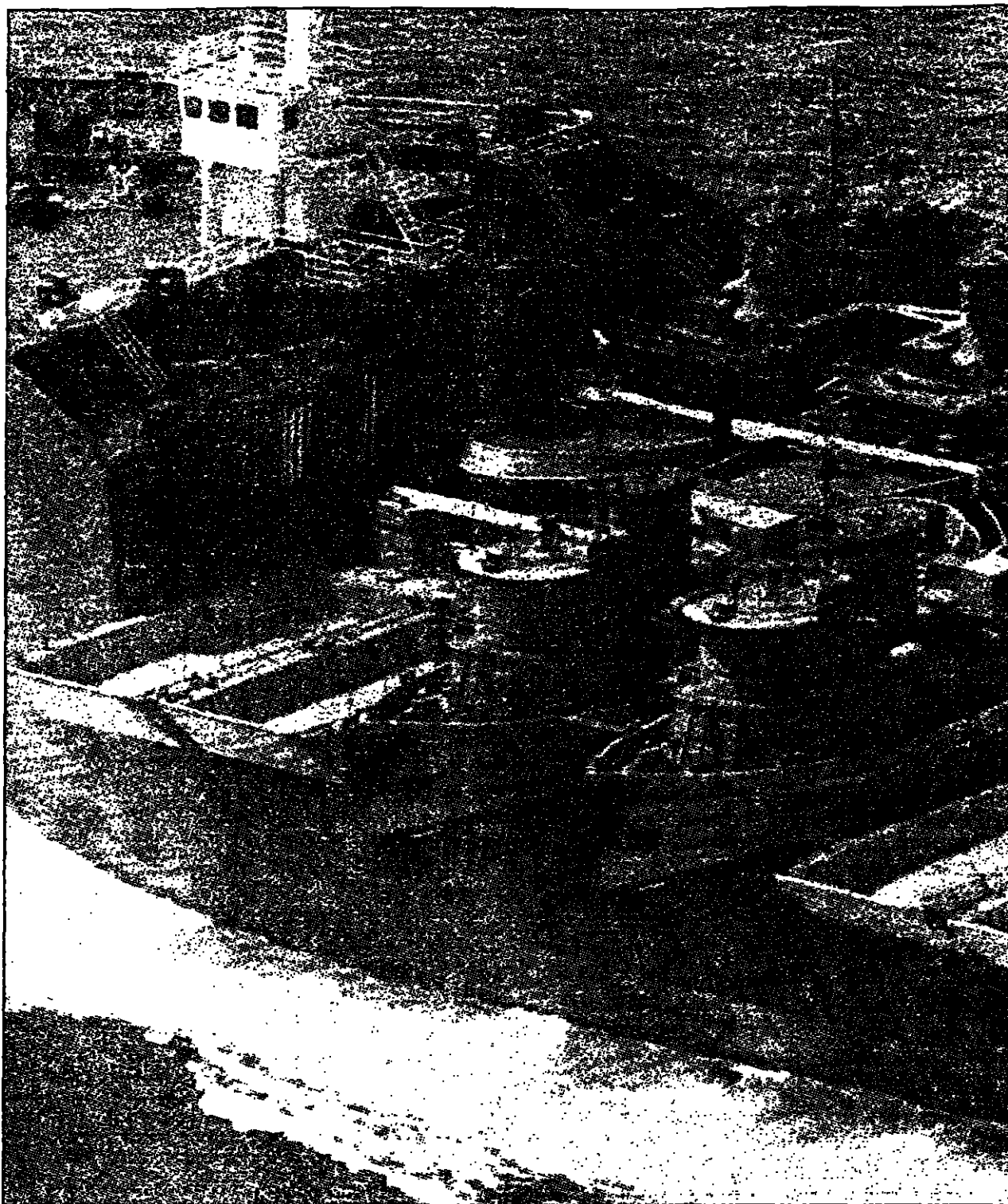
The five permanent members of the UN Security Council have been meeting



his minister, William Waldegrave, who had described the order as a grave and sinister development. "He reacted to it exactly as I did." The fact that the Iraqis had not acted on their threat showed that they were confused about what their intentions were. There was no question of Britain forgetting the anxieties of its citizens.

Mr Hurd also defended the policy of stopping and searching ships to enforce the sanctions and said neither Britain nor America had ruled out using other measures under other parts of the UN Charter.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council have been meeting



Big ships have little ships: an American freighter in the Gulf yesterday with a cargo of US army landing craft

'Gas exporters' held by Bonn

From GIRAUD STECHEN IN BONN

IN AN operation against questionable export deals, West German police yesterday arrested seven people suspected of supplying Iraq with technology to make poison gas. Friedrich Hoffmann, a Darmstadt prosecutor, said that among those arrested was Al Kadhi, aged 51, an Iraqi-born German citizen reported to have worked as an agent for West German intelligence.

Herr Hoffmann said the other suspects arrested were employees of Pilot Plant in Dreieich, Preussag's export division in Hanover, and Walter Engineering Trading in Hamburg. He said criminal investigations of 20 additional suspects were continuing. The prosecutor said the allegations centred on the

employees, not the companies. He added that the arrests came after investigations spanning several years. "It took this long because we had to prove that the technology delivered by them was constructed in such a way for the plants to easily produce poison gas," he said. The suspects faced charges of violating West German export-control laws, he added.

Der Spiegel, the West German news magazine, reported this week that Mr Al Kadhi had been an executive at Walter Engineering and had worked for West Germany's intelligence agency. Bonn has denied its agents were involved with exports to Iraq. The magazine said Mr Al Kadhi continued on page 22, col 7

Tension in Gulf hits shares

By OUR CITY STAFF

RISING tension in the Gulf sent share prices plummeting and oil prices soaring yesterday. The FT-SE 100 index slumped 45.2 points to 2,176.9, knocking £10 billion off the value of shares.

Oil prices moved closer to \$27 a barrel as hopes of an early meeting of Opec members to sanction production quota increases were dashed. October Brent rose \$1.30 a barrel to \$26.75, the largest one-day gain this week. There was respite for the government over inflation. The City had been expecting double-figure inflation for the first time since March 1982, but it held steady at 9.8 per cent. The underlying rate of inflation, excluding mortgages and the community charge, which is the government's favoured indicator of basic price increases, rose to an annual 7 per cent in July from 6.9 per cent in June.

But higher petrol prices caused by the Gulf confrontation could push inflation above 10 per cent soon. Another round of forecast price increases was triggered by Shell, which put an extra 4.5p on a gallon of four-star to

a record price of 217.8p. Petrol has now gone up by 33p a gallon since the start of the year. The company gave a warning that further increases may follow as the oil companies continue to react to nervous spot markets.

Industry greeted the increases with dismay, claiming they would have a significant impact on inflation. The Confederation of British Industry said: "The implications of such large rises for inflation are clearly not good at all. Inflation seems certain now to rise again at a time when companies are battling to hold costs."

Sir William Clark, chairman of the backbench Tory finance committee, predicted however that after a possible "nudge upwards" next month, because of the increase in petrol prices, inflation would be on a downward path. John Smith, the shadow chancellor, said the latest figure was depressing but convincing evidence of the failure of the government's economic policy.

Petrol prices up, page 5
Inflation steady, page 32

Rushdie video ban is lifted

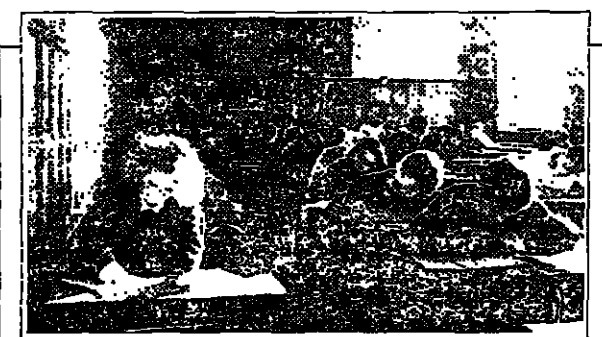
British Muslims said last night there would be no reconciliation with Salman Rushdie despite his support for the lifting of a ban on a Pakistani video depicting him as a murderer. The video appeals committee overturned the British Board of Film Classification's ban on *International Guerrillas*.

Details, page 6
Leading article, page 11

More killed in Soweto fending

Johannesburg — South African police yesterday fired tear gas to disperse rival armed bands of Zulus and Xhosas in townships near Johannesburg as faction fighting continued in the Rand, where 178 people have died this week. At least five people were killed yesterday in Soweto.

Absent Buthezi, page 8



Retaking A-levels?

This is an invitation for free advice about A-levels and higher education from experts. Ring us now in order to arrange a visit or just to have a talk.

Telephone lines will be open throughout the week-end.

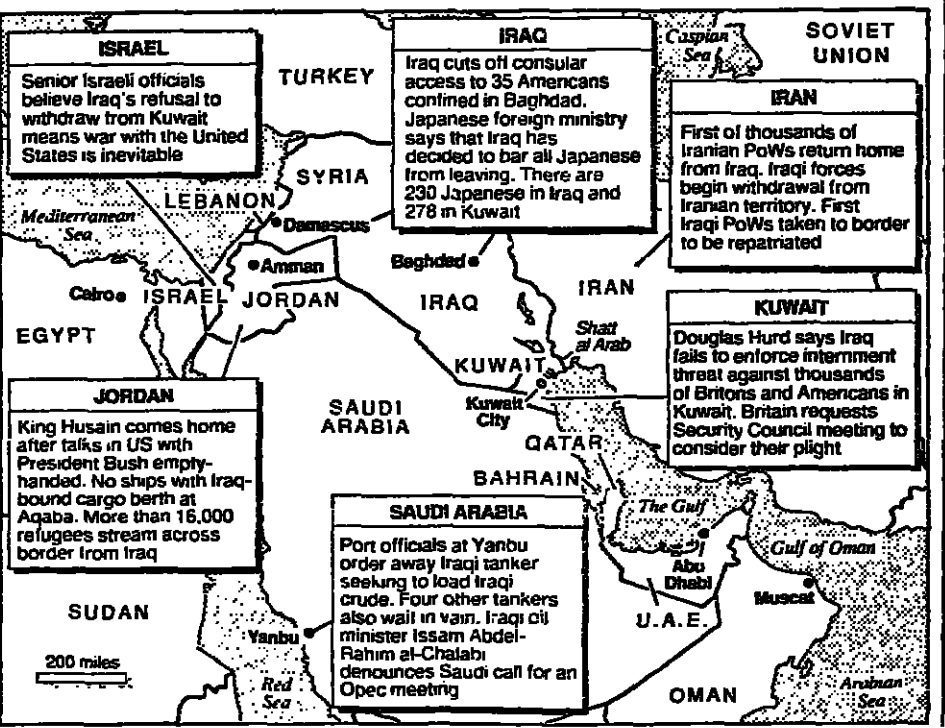
D'OVERBROECK'S is an independent Vith form College in the middle of Oxford.

It provides a good opportunity to retake A-level exams in an establishment which has an outstanding track record. In the last two winters 43% of the A-levels retaken were

awarded grade A or B. (In the country as a whole 13% are usually awarded these grades in the winter exam session.)

Particular attention is given to all applications for further and higher education by the College's team of experienced staff.

D'OVERBROECK'S 15 ST. GILES
OXFORD OX1 3JS
TELEPHONE 0865 310000



Rock-solid proof that Bonnie Prince was here

By KERRY GILL

THE Glenfinnan monument, reputed to be the spot where Bonnie Prince Charlie raised his standard in 1745, is almost certainly in the wrong place. The National Trust for Scotland will officially admit today.

Doubts over the Highland site where the prince unfurled the white banner before hundreds of clansmen, have lingered for many years. Various historians, including Seton Gordon, a former piping correspondent of *The Times*, were convinced that the correct spot was a knoll on the west bank of the Finnan.

The present monument stands a quarter of a mile away on a usually sodden plain southeast of the Finnan. It was erected early last century and is

hardly the place for the Young Pretender to address the faithful. Charles Tyrrell, chairman of the trust, will today unveil a plaque before the annual Glenfinnan Gathering, held to commemorate the raising of the Jacobite standard. The plaque will say that the correct site is an engraved rock that lay hidden by moss for more than 200 years until it was laid bare by a brush fire a few years ago.

The occasion will be a minor triumph for Iain Thorburn, an historian who has long doubted that the monument was the correct site. "My doubts were raised back in the 1950s when I overheard a conversation between Seton Gordon and Francis Cameron-Head of Inverallort, who inaugurated the gathering," he said. "They couldn't believe the monument was in the right place and

thought it more likely to have been on a knoll on the other side of the Finnan, and not on wet, flat ground."

After the fire, the stone was found with a Latin inscription: "1745. In the name of the Lord the standards of Charles Edward Stuart, triumphing at last, was set up." The inscription is thought to have been commissioned in the last century by Father Donald MacDonald, who wanted to ensure that the site of the unfurling was kept in perpetuity. An arrow on the rock points to a hollow where the staff of the banner was placed.

Ronnie McKellig, the trust's representative at Glenfinnan, said the site of the monument was probably chosen for its scenic value. "We are not admitting the rock is conclusive evidence. We are admitting it is a strong possibility."



Glenfinnan monument: site chosen for the view

Saturday Review

Eastwood: the Huston legacy



Clint Eastwood on directing, and playing John Huston, in a film based on the making of a Hollywood classic, *The African Queen*

The search for more Monet

Next month's Monet exhibition in London is the product of painstaking detection. Peter Stothard picked up the trail

Turning back the clock

Why Alice Thomas Ellis wants to restore the Welsh retreat she shares with Beryl Bainbridge as the convent it once was

WEEKEND LIVING

Conservation or energy?



Gas versus wildlife: battle lines are drawn over the bird population of Flamborough Head

See the wood and the trees

Rad Segrt makes wooden furniture, but he also manages to be a friend of the trees

WEEKEND MONEY

Large house, one careful owner

Part-exchange is a staple of the car trade. Now it has spread to the housing market

SPORT

If it's August it must be football



A full preview as Alex Ferguson leads out Manchester United for the Charity Shield match against Liverpool today

Leave me out

Welsh international Arthur Emyr on the distractions faced by Rugby Union players when League clubs court their favours

INDEX

Arts	19
Births, marriages, deaths	12
Boating	31
Business	32-35
Court & social	12
Crosswords	13-22
Family Money	38-44
Features	14, 15
Leading articles	11
Letters	11
Obituary	12
Poetry	37
Racing	28, 29
Sale room	23, 27
Sport	20, 21
TV & Radio	22
Weather	22

WASHINGTON

Gap widens between US rhetoric and realities

From MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

ALL week President Bush has talked up the impact of the United Nations trade embargo against Iraq. "Sanctions are working," he declared at the Pentagon on Wednesday. They were "beginning to take hold," he said after meeting King Hussein of Jordan on Thursday. Finally a reporter asked him for proof.

A flustered Mr Bush conceded that he could not cite specific evidence. "There was one little tidbit that we saw... a report that some of the bakers had been ordered to stop making confections, confectionery goods, whatever it is, sweets and these things, and concentrate on the fundamentals, the staples."

As week two of the Middle East confrontation ended, it was apparent that there were two "gulfs" involved, one with salt water and a capital "G", and one without. The lower-case, rapidly broadening gulf was between the administration's publicly stated plan for defeating Iraq through rigidly enforcing sanctions and its real strategy.

The latter, it became increasingly clear, involves a massive military build-up in Saudi Arabia and the surrounding seas, which far exceeds the purely defensive requirements of the desert kingdom and which this week assumed a conspicuous potential for offence.

The hope is that this formidable threat, alongside the sanctions and an impressive display of global condemnation, will break a status quo which strongly favours Baghdad. It could conceivably foment revolt within Iraq, force President Saddam Hussein to sue for peace, or provoke him into some rash act that would give the Americans just cause for overwhelming military retaliation. The Pentagon has been coy about discussing publicly the scale of military deployments to the Middle East, but anonymous defence officials have



Hands-on leader: Mr Bush in his golf cart on the way yesterday to a round in Kennebunkport, Maine

been only too happy to divulge details which they know will reach Baghdad.

Hence, it was learned this week that two dozen radar-evading F117 stealth fighters - planes with no defensive role whatever - were on their way to Saudi Arabia; that as many as 250,000 troops may ultimately be despatched; that 45,000 marines were on their way; that shipboard computers had been re-programmed so that highly-accurate Tomahawk cruise missiles on the huge US naval armada were

now targeted on key Iraqi installations; that the Saudis had given US B52 bombers based on the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia permission to land and refuel should they need to fly north.

The strategy of maximising pressure on Iraq may also explain why the Americans risked a rift in UN unity at the beginning of the week by rushing to impose a unilateral naval blockade against Iraqi shipping. On Thursday night Mr Bush went still further by authorising US warships to use force, albeit the minimum

necessary, to take out blockade-runners. The Americans know that they cannot sit out the months it would take for the sanctions really to bite.

Washington knows that even if the sanctions held, it would be the Kuwaitis who starved first. It also knows that it must not only force out the Iraqis from Kuwait, but also topple President Saddam, an objective which sanctions alone would be unlikely to achieve. Unless the Iraqi leader goes, the confrontation could either repeat itself in three or four years time with Iraq by then a nuclear power or US troops would become a permanent fixture in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

As Mr Bush fished, golfed and jogged in Kennebunkport, Maine, this week he must have been haunted by shades of Vietnam and past Middle Eastern military quagmires. "We're not going to wait around for three months to see if the sanctions work," one senior US policymaker told *The Washington Post*. "The biggest risk we face is paralysis or the status quo. If that happens, Saddam wins."

The trade embargo was Washington's first card, but "this does not preclude playing other cards," said another administration official. "My impression is we have the embargo card, with higher cards in reserve."

The prospect of further military action by Iraq against any of its neighbours has receded, but the one Iraqi action that would almost guarantee an American military intervention would be to harm the 3,000 American citizens held in Baghdad and Kuwait by President Saddam.

Within hours of the August 2 invasion, Mr Bush said that if American citizens were threatened, it would "affect the US in a very dramatic way because I view a fundamental responsibility of my presidency (as being) to protect American citizens."

Rosemary Righter, page 10
Leading article, page 11

PROTESTS

Jordanian Muslims call for death of 'aggressors'

From CHRISTOPHER WALKER
IN SALT, JORDAN

THE streets of Jordan's ancient capital yesterday echoed with cries of "American aggression will be defeated by all the Arab and Muslim people. Death to Bush, Mubarak and Fahd", as thousands of angry Muslims attended a pro-Iraqi protest.

"You see that?", asked one youth, aged 17, as he held up an old shoe. "That shoe is George Bush. He is nothing. American soldiers can fight in their own country, but in the deserts of Saudi Arabia they will be beaten. They will go home in wooden boxes."

The demonstration, at which posters of President Saddam Hussein were more in evidence than those of King Hussein of Jordan, was the fourth of its kind in Salt in two weeks and one of at least two or three now staged in Jordan every day. It was a symbol of the dilemma now facing King Hussein, who returned empty-handed from Washington yesterday to find his people more strident in support of Iraq.

"Are you British?", asked one demonstrator in Muslim robes, who was surrounded by others who spat when they heard "Britain" mentioned. "Tell Mrs Thatcher to get out of Arab conflicts. We have had enough of people like the British and Americans trying to run our lives."

The anti-American thrust of the demonstrations has become more marked as President Bush has stepped up pressure on the Jordanians to join the United Nations trade embargo, and threaten President Saddam's vital supply line through Aqaba.

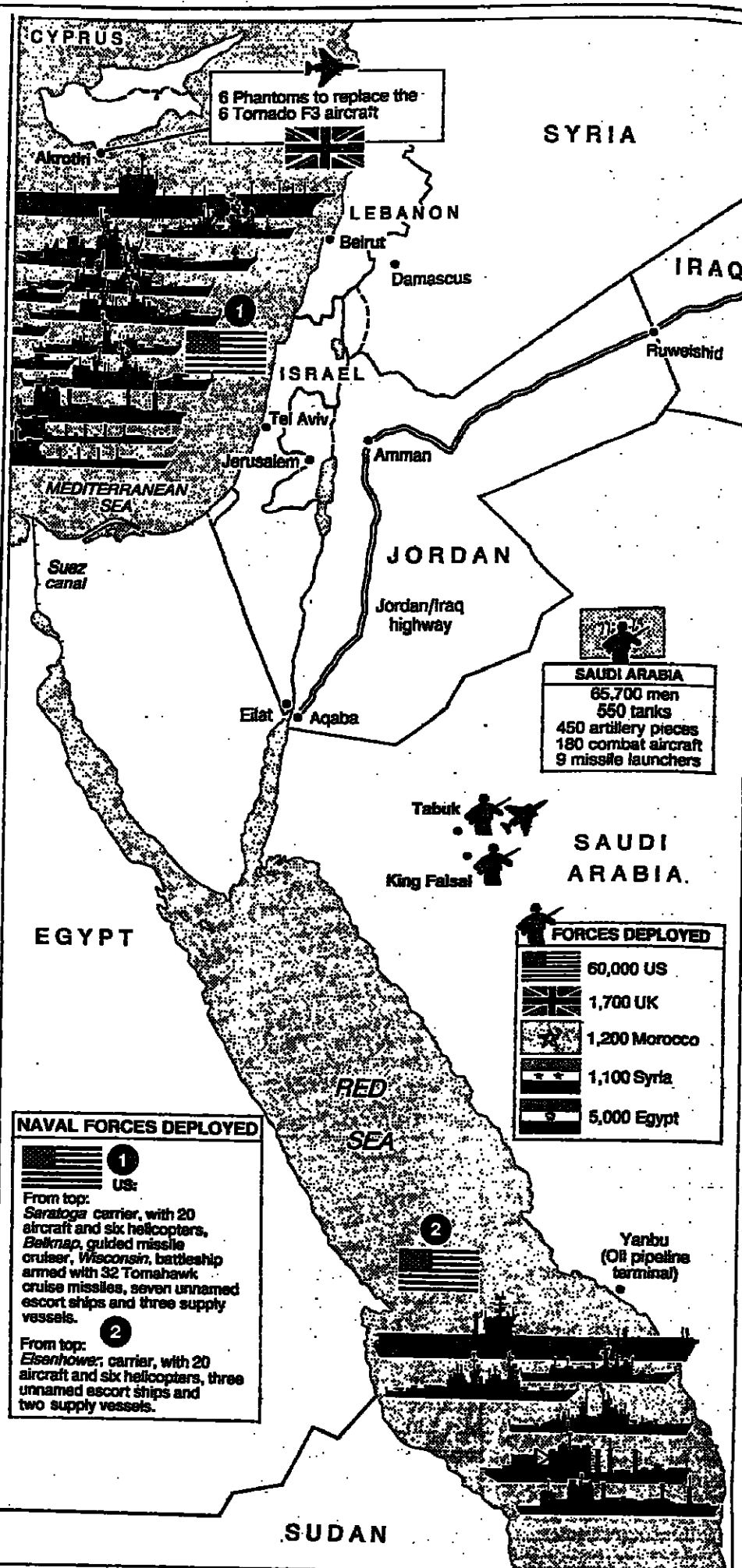
"They are trying to starve Arabs to death," said one slogan at yesterday's protest in Salt, a city of 100,000 people 12 miles from the Jordanian capital, Amman. There was no mistaking the militancy of the demonstrators, nor the blanket nature of their support, whipped up by Islamic politicians and local trade unions who had organised the protest.

The strength of feeling was indicative that King Hussein's shaky throne could be in danger if he fails to deflect at least a measure of the wave of pro-Iraqi sentiment in Jordan, where 60 per cent of the 2.4 million population is Palestinian.

Many of those marching through Salt were adamant about their willingness to die supporting the Iraqi leader. More than 90,000 Jordanians have signed up for potential service in the newly-formed Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Struggle of the Iraqi People, but so far there have been no concrete plans to form them into viable fighting units.

More substantive has been King Hussein's creation of a so-called "popular army" which has begun recruiting and training and will serve as a heavily-armed home guard if Israel attacks, now feared by Jordanians as a possible by-product of events in the Gulf. Western observers have not ruled out the possibility that President Saddam could turn his tanks on Jordan.

As well as showing the restraints King Hussein faces, the protest also showed the venom felt by Jordanians for those Arab leaders who have been most co-operative with the West, notably President Mubarak of Egypt. "We will kill him. Like Sadat, he will be killed," said Mohammed Abdullah, aged in his mid-20s.



Ships with Iraqi cargoes avoiding Red Sea port

From OUR CORRESPONDENT IN AMMAN

IRAQ's vital remaining sea supply-line through the Jordanian port of Aqaba appeared to have dried up temporarily yesterday before a final decision by King Hussein about how completely to impose the United Nations embargo on trade.

According to shipping agents in the once bustling harbour, ships with Iraq-bound cargoes no longer docked there and none was expected. The agents said UN sanctions and a de facto American blockade had scared away shipping, strangling Iraqi commerce.

The agents said yesterday they had not received instructions from the Jordanian government on how to treat Iraqi trade, but some were angry that Washington had insisted that food be included in the shipments to be stopped. "How dare Washington ask us to stop sending food and medicine while it expects Jordan to keep open its borders

with Iraq to facilitate the evacuation of Western nationals," Mr Issam Kassar of Amin Kassar and Sons, one of the largest firms based at the Red Sea port, said.

King Hussein is in a painful dilemma, pressed by the US on one side to impose a rigid embargo, while facing a rising tide of pro-Iraqi and anti-American sentiment inside his desert kingdom. He has said he will be seeking UN clarification on the extent of the embargo after his fruitless talks with President Bush on Thursday.

Government officials in Amman have accused the US and Britain of going too far in their interpretation of the embargo, notably Britain's decision this week to turn back a cargo headed for Jordan.

Popular support for President Saddam is backed in Jordan by deep financial anxiety about the consequences of closing Aqaba to Iraqi-bound trade. That amounted to

about 50 per cent of the port's volume which, until this confrontation, was handling an average of 35 ships a day. "For the moment, it seems the world shipping trade has taken King Hussein's most difficult decision for him," a European diplomat explained.

"If there are no Iraqi-bound ships docking, there will be no goods to load on lorries to drive to Baghdad, once the stocks in Aqaba have run out."

Jordanian shipping executives were angry at the decision by cargo owners to stop shipments of food. "This is against international law," one claimed. Another said the shipments had been stopped after several Western nations froze Iraqi assets.

CAIRO: Egypt allowed an Iraqi ship carrying food to sail through the Suez canal yesterday, saying that United Nations sanctions did not affect its passage. (Reuters)

MOSCOW

Kremlin sees American build-up as temporary

IN HIS first public comment on events in the Gulf, Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, yesterday described the confrontation there as "complex and explosive" (Mary Dejevsky writes from Moscow). He added that the Soviet Union would do all it could to ensure that the resolutions of the UN Security Council were fulfilled.

Mr Shevardnadze declined to criticise the build-up of US forces in Saudi Arabia, saying that Moscow regarded the American troop presence there as "temporary".

"If the tension continues, then the Security Council will

take more positive and more decisive action." His remarks were more sympathetic to America and more hostile to Iraq than most recent Soviet comment. He was speaking at a joint press conference with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart, who was ending a one-day visit to discuss German unity. Mr Shevardnadze also indicated that Washington had accepted a Soviet proposal to revive the UN General Staff Committee as a body to coordinate military action. He added that America had rejected a similar Soviet suggestion during the Gulf war.

BAHRAIN

Jaguar fighters will use emirate as base

From ANDREW McEWEN, MANAMA, BAHRAIN

BRITAIN is to rotate its Jaguar fighters between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain after receiving a warm welcome from the Bahraini government for its role in the Gulf.

Alan Clark, minister of defence procurement, was told yesterday that Bahrain fully supports the strong line Britain has taken against Iraq. Sheikh Isa bin Sulman al-Khalifa, the emir of Bahrain, had invited Britain to re-deploy some of its aircraft to use Bahrain's facilities, although they will not be stationed there.

A "full and detailed" agree-

ment was reached but he refused to disclose its details. British aircraft will be free to come and go as needed. Bahrain is only a few minutes' flying time from Dhahran in Saudi Arabia, which has much larger facilities.

A senior Bahraini source said all other military facilities would be available to Britain and the US if needed. He emphasised Manama's support for the vigorous policy adopted by both countries after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

Bahrain also expected to build up its own military hardware and would probably buy equipment from the US and Britain.

British sources said that Qatar, which Mr Clark visited on Thursday, had also welcomed Britain's role. His visit to Bahrain was the second leg of a four-nation tour at Mrs Thatcher's request to find out whether the smaller Gulf nations need assistance from Britain. He denied that he had solicited requests for British forces.

General Sir Richard Vincent, vice-chief of defence staff, said the arrangements would broaden Britain's operational capability.

Defend yourself against higher pump prices.



Even Slick 50 can't offer a complete cure for those petrol pump blues. But it can relieve the pain a little.

Slick 50 can help you get more out of your engine and help you keep more money in your pocket.

It dramatically reduces engine friction which translates into better economy, extra performance, easier starting and lower fuel emissions.*

The once only treatment adds a microscopic, semi-permanent film of PTFE (polytetrafluoroethylene) onto your engine's working parts reducing friction by allowing them to slide against one another like wet ice against wet ice.

Slick 50 is available from Halfords, other good motor accessory and DIY stores as well as your local filling station.

Or write for more information to Mitchell Marketing Ltd., FREEPOST, Wigston, Leicestershire LE12 1AZ.

NAME _____ T138
ADDRESS _____

Slick 50 - more miles per gallon.

*ASCENT INDEPENDENT TUV TESTS SHOWED A 10.8% REDUCTION IN NITROUS OXIDE EXHAUST EMISSIONS FOLLOWING SLICK 50 TREATMENT. INTERNATIONAL TEST ORGANISATION, EPA, PUBLISHED THESE FINDINGS OBTAINED IN A 2.0 LITRE CAPRI POWER INCREASE OF 12.7%, MPG IMPROVEMENTS OF 7% ON URBAN CYCLE, 11.4% AT CONSTANT 75 MPH AND 5.1% AT CONSTANT 55 MPH (APRIL 1988).

ISRAEL

Propaganda blitz seeks to deter Saddam

From RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL radio yesterday reported senior Israeli officials saying that war between the United States and Iraq now appeared "inevitable". Moshe Arens, the Israeli defence minister, said he hoped that the American-led naval blockade would be enough to force Iraqi troops out of Kuwait "so that there will be no need for bloodshed or fighting on the ground".

Israeli officials are keeping up a barrage of propaganda designed to deter President Saddam Hussein from an attack on the country, with the press warning Baghdad that Jerusalem could repeat its 1981 strike against Iraqi nuclear installations and observing that Israel also possesses chemical weapons.

But while remaining on high alert and reminding Baghdad of its formidable firepower, Israel is deliberately keeping a low profile two weeks after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in order not to give Iraq any excuse for anti-Israeli aggression. Jerusalem is also happily reaping the political benefits of the crisis.

"Israel is obviously the

country best placed to blockade Aqaba," one diplomat said. "Yet the Israelis are repeatedly asserting that any blockade of the port would be carried out by the United States, not by Israel."

Even distribution of gas masks to Israeli civilians in case of an Iraqi chemical weapons attack is being held up, in case it gives Baghdad "the wrong signal". David Levy, the foreign minister, said on a visit to West Germany that Israel could distribute gas masks "within hours to the



Arens: Hopes that the blockade will be enough

entire population". However, to do so at the height of the present confrontation "might be seen as preparation by Israel for a step it is going to take, and might be used as an excuse by this dictator to do something he would perhaps do at another time or not at all".

The newspaper *al-Hamishmar* quoted "informed sources in Jerusalem" as saying that Israel would destroy Iraq's nuclear infrastructure "if asked to do so by the United States". Officials said this was a "worst case scenario" in the event of an all-out war in which Israel found it impossible to stay on the sidelines.

However, officials believe, or profess to believe, that a "limited" confrontation in the Gulf need not involve Israel. Mr Arens said that, if Iraq attacked Israel or sent troops into Jordan, this would trigger "severe" Israeli retaliation.

Leaders of the American Jewish Committee, currently visiting Israel, said that the country's image in the United States had improved markedly since the Gulf crisis

begin. They said the image of the Palestine Liberation Organisation had been "badly tarnished" by its support for President Saddam. Americans realised better than before that Israel lived in a "dangerous neighbourhood" and that it was to be valued as a "reliable, stable and responsive ally".

Western analysts agree that widespread Palestinian support for a regime in Baghdad regarded by the rest of the world as brutal and barbaric has done untold damage to the "moderate" image of the PLO, not least in the eyes of peace activists here who once favoured an Israeli dialogue with the organisation.

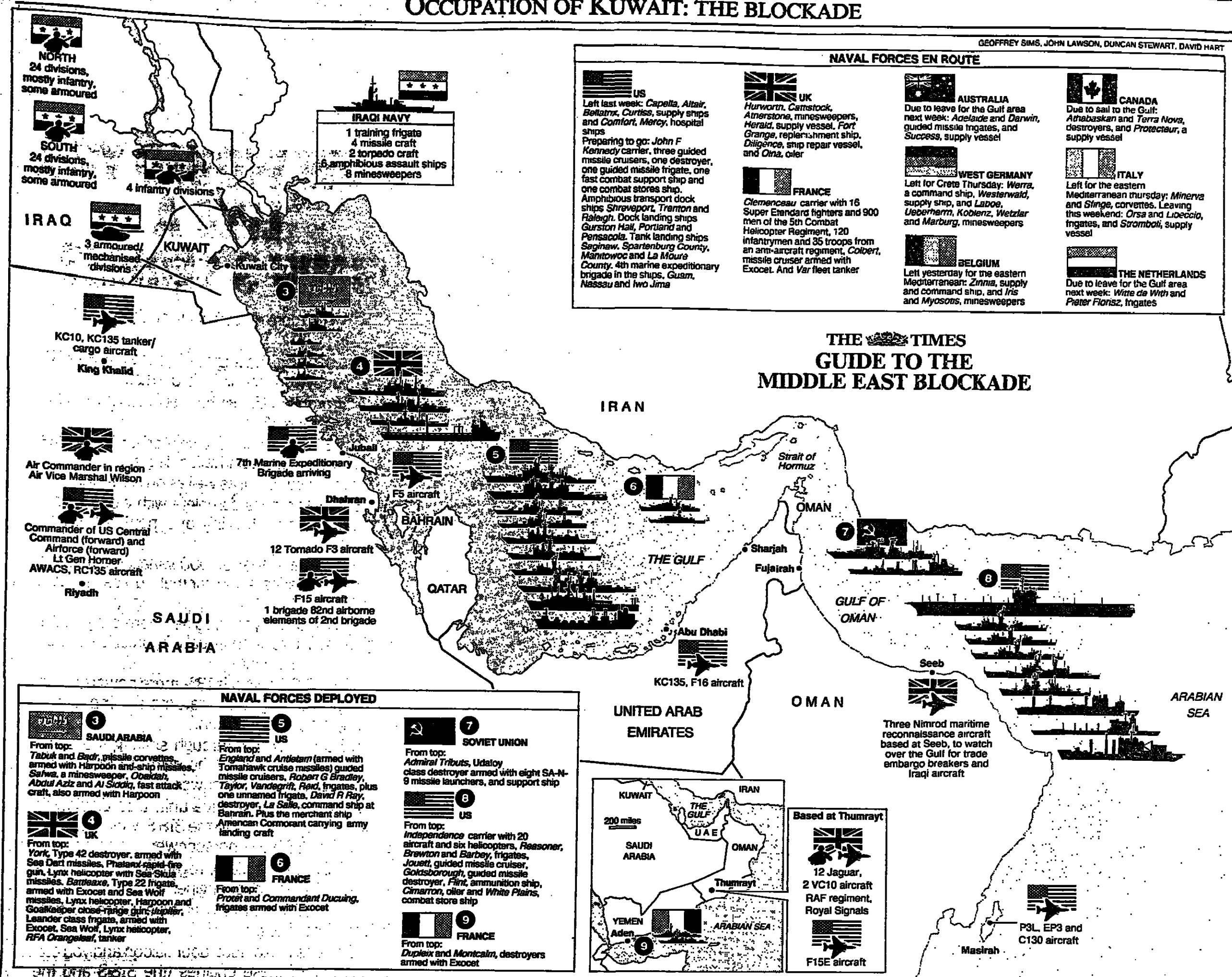
Palestinians of all ages and political leanings appear unable to see that acts of savagery by Iraqi soldiers in Kuwait have aroused worldwide disgust, or that the crisis was caused in the first place by the aggression of one Arab country against another. Such "details" are lost in a continuing wave of anti-American and pro-Saddam emotion in the West Bank and east Jerusalem based on the assumption that the Iraqi leader will

prevail as a "modern Saladin" and will "restore Palestine". Mr Levy said that his talks in Europe had indicated a "basic shift" in European attitudes towards the PLO and its chairman, Yassir Arafat. Speaking from Rome, he told Israeli radio: "I have heard anger and expressions towards him (Arafat) which indicate that the Europeans have begun to understand better both the organisation and the man."

Mr Levy, speaking after talks with Gianni de Michelis, the Italian foreign minister, said that only a short time ago the European Community had been "very close to Arafat", but "today they are talking in a manner which cannot be misunderstood about their deep disappointment and their recognition that the direction Arafat is taking is the most extreme of the extremists".

Leading Palestinians in the occupied territories have been backing away from support for Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, saying that they are opposed to "the acquisition of land by force".

OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: THE BLOCKADE



Naval armada to enter record books

THE international armada of warships, supply vessels and minesweepers already deployed in the Gulf, Red Sea and eastern Mediterranean represents one of the largest assemblages of naval power in modern history and probably the most devastating in fire power since the second world war.

With more than 100 ships expected to be in the region within the next few weeks, it is already a naval operation exceeding any Nato exercise in size and complexity.

Including the Saudi naval force of six ships, there are 53 warships and other vessels in the region, including three American aircraft carriers. En route are a further 60 from the US, France, Britain,

Italy, Belgium, Canada, West Germany, Australia and The Netherlands. The total of 113 is bound to increase as the Americans, French, British and other Nato countries keep the naval forces deployed to the region under review.

The Gulf armada is split into three groups: the US aircraft carriers whose mission is to protect Saudi Arabia and to launch air attacks on Iraqi forces if the kingdom is invaded; the US and British naval forces, which are enforcing a *de facto* blockade to stop ships trading to and from Iraq; and the naval forces from other countries, which will wait for the United Nations to approve

a blockade before joining the US and Britain.

Total manpower in the multinational forces gathering in the region is expected to top 125,000, with some 500 aircraft. They will join a Saudi force of 38,000 army, 7,200 navy and 16,500 air force personnel, with 180 combat aircraft, confronting the Iraqis' estimated 170,000 troops in Kuwait with hundreds of tanks and aircraft.

The Iraqis have one training frigate, four missile craft — they used to have eight but four were sunk by the Iranians — two torpedo craft, eight minesweepers and six amphibious assault ships. Three of these can each carry 250

troops, 20 tanks and one helicopter, and the other three 180 troops and six tanks each.

Historically, the greatest armadas have been formed for battles, not blockades. Iraq, with a small navy, is not contemplating war at sea. Even the five frigates listed in the Iraqi naval inventory have never been handed over by the Italians who built them because of a payment dispute.

But the US, with three carriers in place and one more preparing to leave, will use its sea-based aircraft to attack Iraqi positions if a conflict starts. The French carrier *Clemenceau* and a second, *Foch*, which could be sent if necessary, according to Jean-Pierre Chev-

enement, the French defence minister, yesterday, would also be available for mounting big air strikes.

The greatest naval battle in history, in terms of ships, tonnage and crews, was between the US and Japan in October 1944 at Leyte Gulf, off the Philippines. The US 3rd fleet, carrier fleet and 7th fleet involved in the battle consisted of 181 warships and 29 submarines with 1,330,000 tonnage and 140,000 crew.

The ships included eight carriers, eight light carriers and six battleships. Japan's northern, central and southern naval forces engaged at Leyte Gulf consisted of

67 warships, with 730,000 tonnage and 43,000 crew.

The largest armada of all was D-Day, June 1944, when 1,213 warships and 4,126 landing craft took part in the amphibious assault codenamed Operation Neptune. The ships involved included seven battleships, 23 cruisers, 80 fleet destroyers (large), 63 frigates, 71 corvettes and 287 minesweepers.

In the Korean war, the largest assembly of ships took place on September 15, 1950, when 200 ships and landing craft were involved in the landing at Inchon, south of Seoul.

Apart from the aircraft on board

the US carriers deployed against the Iraqis, two of the US warships, *Wisconsin*, a battleship, and *Antietam*, a guided missile cruiser, are equipped with land-attack Tomahawk cruise missiles with a range of more than 1,500 miles.

The *Clemenceau*, under way to the Red Sea port of Djibouti, has 42 combat helicopters. M Chevenement said that combat aircraft, warships and soldiers from the base in Djibouti and the Indian Ocean could be added to the French Gulf force.

Two Belgian minehunters and a support ship left yesterday for exercises in the eastern Mediterranean pending a decision on whether to send them to the Gulf.

Rosemary Righter, page 10
Leading article, page 11
Letters, page 11

AT SEA

Baghdad's vessels avoid a clash

From Mike THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

IRAQ continued to probe the American naval blockade yesterday, but appeared unwilling to risk a potentially explosive confrontation at sea after President Bush ordered US naval commanders to use "the minimum force necessary" to halt Iraq's trade.

There was no response from Iraq when Saudi Arabia turned away a second of its tankers, and an Iraqi vessel carrying Polish-made small arms and ammunition, which was due to arrive at the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba on Thursday, remained in the eastern Mediterranean.

Iraq has warned that it will consider it an act of aggression if its ships are challenged by the US Navy, but the Saudis have so far managed to deflect Iraqi tankers on their own simply by refusing to send tugboats to help them berth.

Aqaba, Iraq's last lifeline for foreign trade, was at a virtual standstill and sanctions had

cut the tonnage handled there by 80 per cent, according to Lloyd's List International.

The 80,000-ton Iraqi tanker al-Fao arrived at the Saudi Red Sea port of Yanbu early yesterday morning and sailed away several hours later to anchor in international waters where another unsuccessful tanker, the al-Qadisiyah, has been anchored since Monday.

Four more tankers, two of them Iraqi, one Norwegian and one Bulgarian, waited off the Saudi terminal of Musajir near by after having been refused permission to berth. On the other side of the Arabian peninsula, two Iraqi freighters anchored off Dubai left after being refused permission to dock, according to shipping sources.

The Iraqi-flagged and government-owned *Baqees*, a 3,861-ton vessel carrying Polish-made armaments, waited in the eastern Mediterranean for further orders. The ship

left the Polish port of Gdynia on August 1, the day before Iraq invaded Kuwait, but by last night it still had not passed through the Suez Canal. Military analysts said it indicated that Iraq had no desire to challenge US warships now ready to intercept Iraqi ships approaching Aqaba.

American warships in the eastern Mediterranean were not likely to challenge the *Baqees* because it is one thing challenging a ship approaching a blocked port, and very different challenging one hundreds of miles away.

While Iraq was reluctant to test American resolve by sending a ship laden with armaments to Aqaba, it had no such compunction about a cargo ship said to be carrying food. If intercepted, it could place the United States on a collision course with the United Nations which would delight President Saddam.

Several countries, among

them Ethiopia, strongly oppose starving Iraq into submission. President Bush insists that all goods being sent to Iraq are embargoed. Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, secretary-general of the United Nations, said that UN approval must be sought if sanctions are to be enforced militarily.

The government-owned 7,000-ton *Zain al-Qaws* was the first Iraqi ship to pass through the Suez Canal since the UN imposed sanctions on Iraq on August 6. While Cairo is engaged in a propaganda war with Baghdad, its officials said no ship could be denied passage unless it flew the flag of a country at war with Egypt.

Britain, which has three warships and a support vessel in the Gulf, was in no danger of risking embarrassment by blocking Iraqi ships carrying food. The mood among the 700-odd British sailors was described by the Ministry of Defence as very relaxed.

WASHINGTON

US declares ships can use force

From SUSAN ELLICOTT IN WASHINGTON

THE United States has formally announced that its warships in the Gulf have permission to prevent "with the minimum amount of force necessary" the movement of vessels carrying goods and other supplies in and out of Kuwait and Iraq.

The blockade took effect at around 1am British time yesterday after Richard Cheney, the US defence secretary, signed an order approved by President Bush on Wednesday. The order covers the Gulf of Oman, the Red Sea approach to the Jordanian port of Aqaba and the Gulf south of Iraq-occupied Kuwait.

The Pentagon said that Mr Bush "authorised a multinational effort that will intercept ships carrying the products and commodities that are bound to or from Iraq and Kuwait". Most ships in the region were observing an international embargo on commerce before the naval

blockade began and no ships bearing oil, food and other supplies were in the zone when it started.

The order permits the US navy to enforce a trade and economic embargo against Iraq by warning cargo ships in the region to stop, searching them for goods covered by United Nations-backed sanctions and using minimum

force to divert them to alternative ports. The UN has not authorised such a blockade, since it has not yet decided how to enforce the sanctions if they are broken.

The Pentagon said US naval officers would halt ships leaving or approaching other places, including Jordan, if they suspect the vessels are taking supplies to Iraq. Mr Bush called for a blockade last Sunday, but his administration has refused to use the word since it signals an act of war and describes the naval efforts as "interdiction".

The precise rules of engagement issued for the blockade are classified, and Pete Williams, the Pentagon's spokesman, refused to say what a US warship commander would do if a vessel ignored warnings to stop and be searched.

Non-government military experts have said the rules of engagement could include firing warning shots across a ship's bow, at its rudder or at its motor to cripple it.

"To the maximum extent possible, we will conduct operations without the use of force," Mr Williams said.

The order raised concern that the US was stepping up the offensive nature of its allegedly defensive operations in the Gulf. The Pentagon order allows naval commanders to escalate their use of force to achieve their aim. Some military experts and administration officials have reportedly interpreted Mr Bush's order as a final move before open war.

The Pentagon's orders to the US navy came after acknowledgement by military forces in Saudi Arabia to journalists that US pilots are operating under similar rules of engagement to those issued to the naval commanders.

The US department of defence confirmed reports on Thursday that US fighter pilots locked their radar-weapons systems on to Iraqi jets that approached them in Saudi Arabian airspace.

The Pentagon also announced its first estimate of the costs of the US military operations in Saudi Arabia as \$1.2 billion (£630 million) through to the end of September. The figure does not include the potential cost of mobilising reserve forces. Private experts have estimated that the operation could cost the US between \$300 million and \$400 million a month.

To justify his blockade order, President Bush has invoked the authority of "collective self defence" clauses in the UN Charter and said that he acted in response to a request from the deposed ruling family of Kuwait.



Cheney signed order for use of minimum force

Iranian PoWs go home as Iraqi troops start the withdrawal

From JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN DUBAI

Military bands and crowds waving portraits of Ayatollah Khomeini yesterday welcomed hundreds of Iranian prisoners of war returning home in tears of joy. Travelling in the opposite direction were Iraqi armoured brigades as they began withdrawing from Iran to the Saudi border.

The implementation of the first phase of President Saddam's "peace initiative" drew a friendly gesture from Tehran but, as expected, it has failed to woo Iran into Baghdad's camp.

Shortly after the first batch of Iranian prisoners was driven in buses through the Khosravi border post on the main Tehran-Baghdad highway, officials in Tehran said

that Iraqi prisoners of war would be sent home too. But Tehran again made it very clear that it does not intend to join President Saddam's "holy war" against the West and its Arab allies, nor to soften its condemnation of the invasion of Kuwait.

In fact, Tehran offered Baghdad some advice. Addressing Friday worshippers in the Iranian capital, Ayatollah Abulkarim Mousavi Ardebili, declared: "Saddam is struggling... His best bet is to leave Kuwait, then all of us in the region can tell America: 'Sir, please leave'."

The release of prisoners gave Tehran fresh reason to rejoice after President Saddam's concessions to end a war which has cost nearly one million lives and shattered the economy of both nations. "Blessed be the echo of your first manly steps back on

the homeland", read the headline of a Tehran newspaper. As thousands of Iranians rushed to the Red Crescent society to read the list of freed prisoners, Tehran radio said: "This is the result of ten years of patience and resistance by you, brave men and women of Iran."

The International Committee of the Red Cross has registered about 20,000 Iranians and 50,000 Iraqis, but United Nations officials say the total is much higher. Iraq said that the 1,000 prisoners freed yesterday were among those who had spent longest in Mosul prison. They were first taken to Baghdad by train, wearing yellow prison uniforms. The Iraqis waved to pedestrians as they were driven from Baghdad to the border in a convoy of buses.

While the Iraqis celebrated, the Iraqis

planned their next military move. According to Iranian military commanders, Iraqi infantry and armoured divisions began pulling out from the rugged border mountains of Meimik, in the former central battlefield, and areas of Kalleh Qandi, Mehran and Nafi Shah.

The withdrawal is expected to be completed by Wednesday. President Saddam will then strengthen his 130,000-strong force in Kuwait and along the Saudi border with a further 30 army divisions.

For the time being, at least, the Iraqis are waging a vicious war of words. Yesterday *al-Nahdha*, newspaper of the Baath party, said that US pilots attacking Iraq were doomed. "Their planes will fall like dead sparrows," it said. "No mercy will be shown to the American pilots, whose

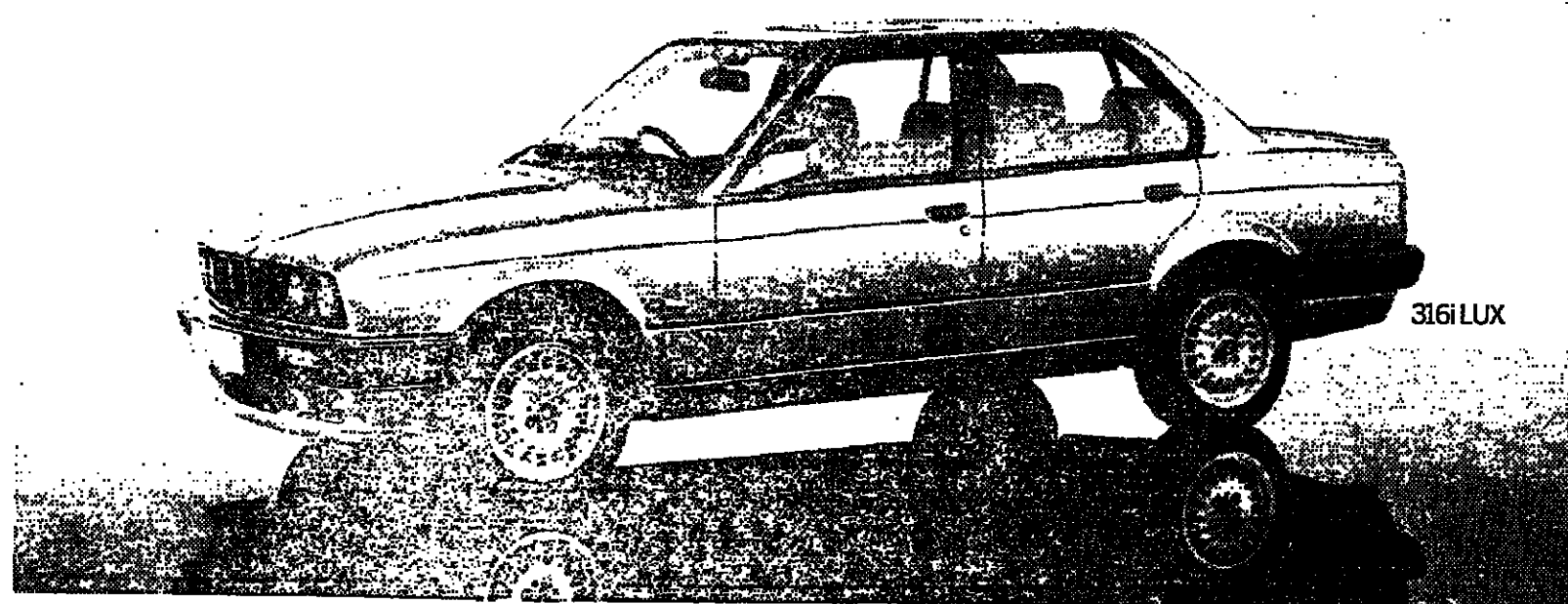
bodies will be torn to pieces wherever they fall so that their souls will go to Hell."

Red Cross boost: In the hope of gaining access to Americans and Europeans stopped from leaving Iraq and Kuwait, the International Committee of the Red Cross has sent 12 delegates to join the 19 in Baghdad (Alan MacGregor writes from Geneva).

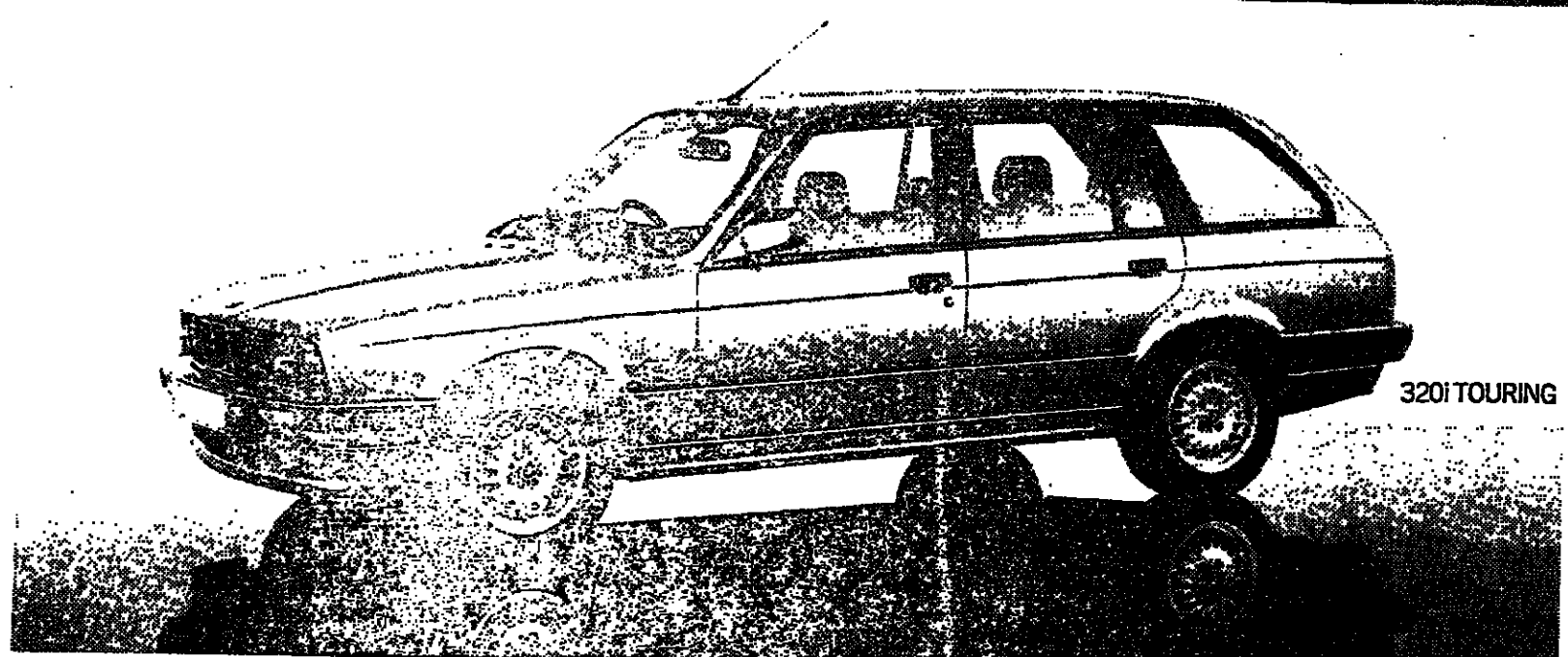
The latter are "stretched to the limit", an ICRC official said, in trying to ensure that the exchange of prisoners in Iraq and Iran is carried out in conformity with the Geneva Conventions, and in particular that those being repatriated go of their own free will. The ICRC was taken by surprise yesterday when the arrival at the frontier of the first 1,000 Iraqis freed by Iraq. They had not been seen beforehand by the ICRC delegation in Teheran.

turned 33.1 m for the une, is from is max \$5.2 m ere der ige on d with lilion F hout F there on plus rect sl to kee

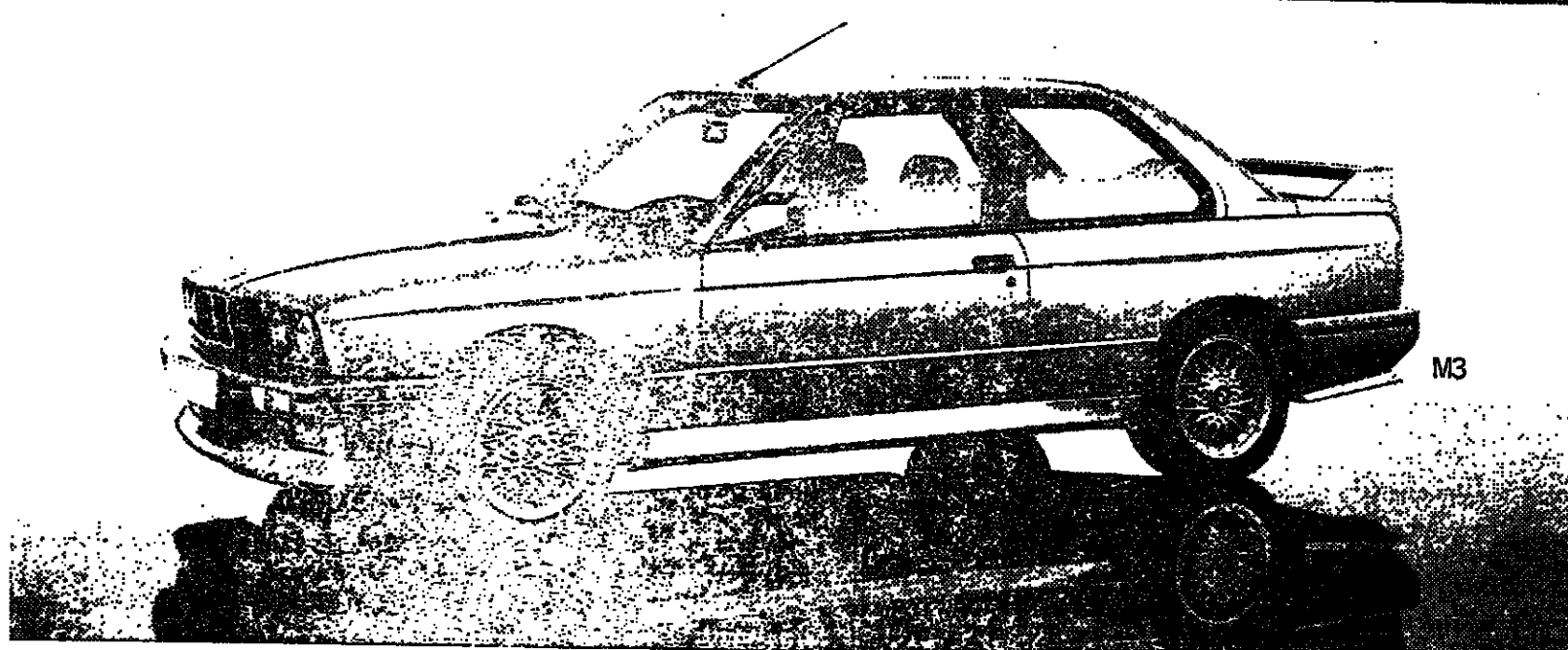
high Pe the m fence, l health 's imm tain -tax i: \$57 m a whic on wou put the pective y the u but is little n.



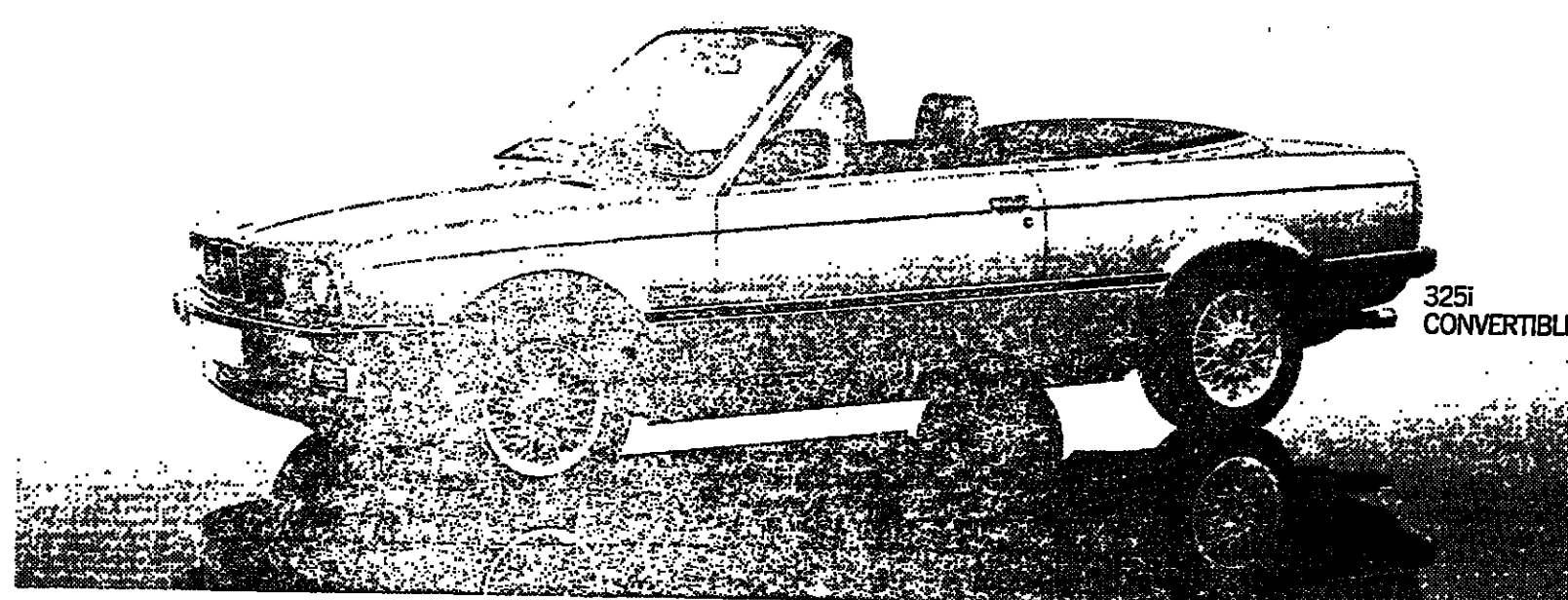
316i LUX



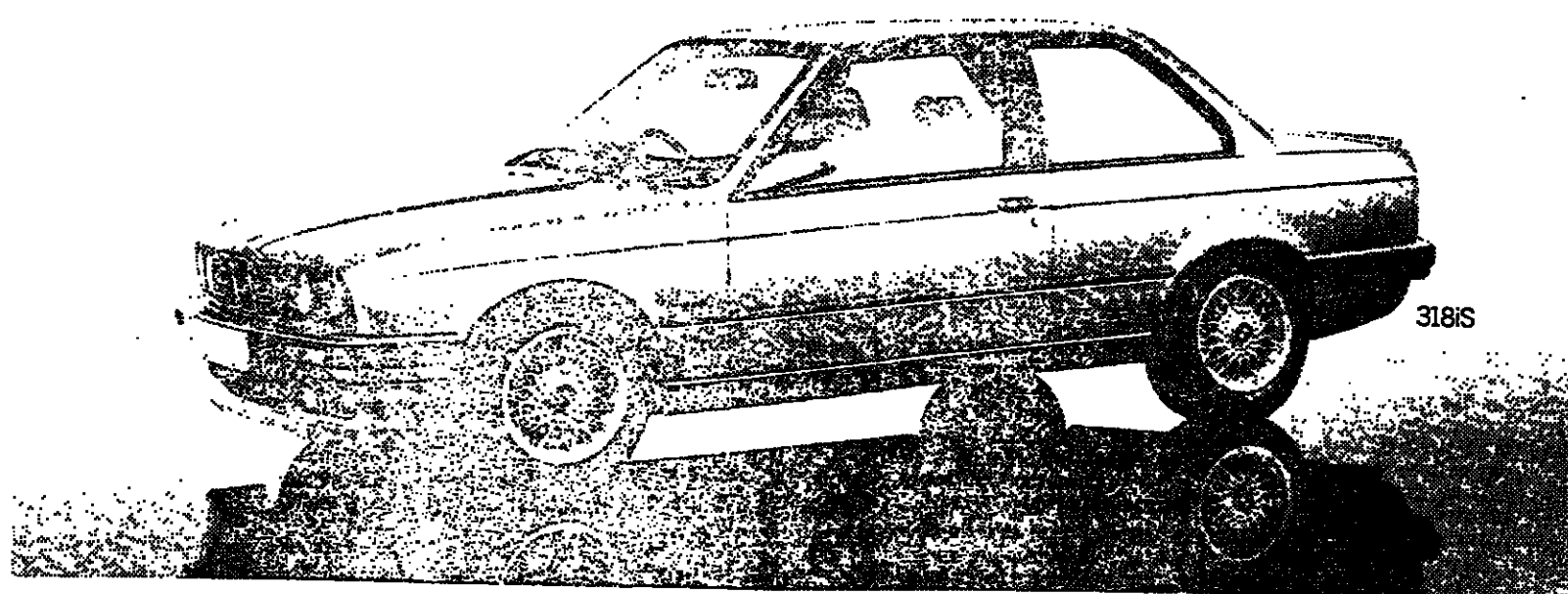
320i TOURING



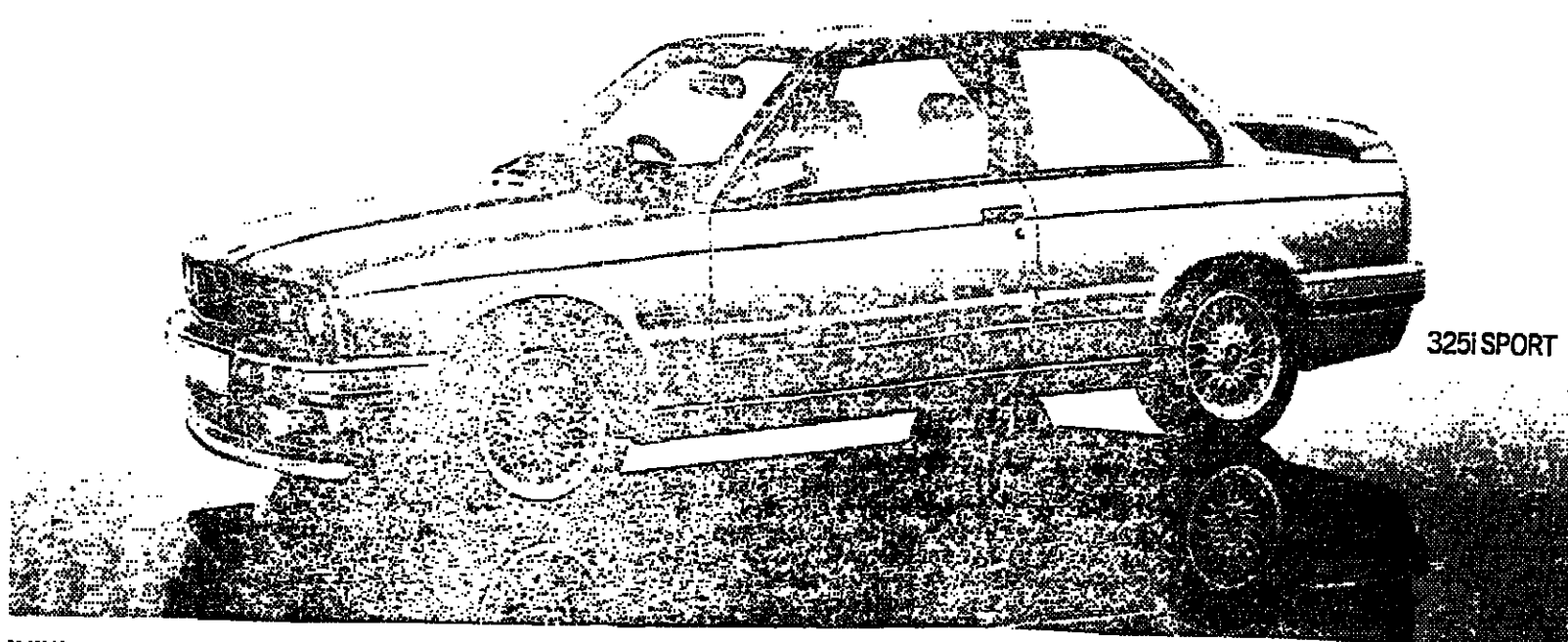
M3



325i CONVERTIBLE



318iS



325i SPORT

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A BMW 3 SERIES?

It is a far more difficult question than you might imagine.

The handling, the engineering and the perfectly formed bodywork are difficult to resist.

The problem is, just how do you have these qualities delivered?

The BMW 3 Series allows a driver to express his individuality to an unrivalled degree.

In the showroom, as well as on the road.

Each car arrives complete with electric front windows, central locking and power-assisted steering.

But with a further 30,000 variations available to you the 3 Series is one car that truly can be built to order.

The six body types you see here are just the beginning. There is an equally impressive choice of fuel-injected engines.

A lively 1.6 litre that is 13% more powerful than its predecessor, yet still returns an impressive 47 mpg at a steady 56 mph.

A 1.8 litre which, through sharing the same cylinder head design as the new V12 BMW 850i, delivers 115 brake horsepower.

A brand new 16-valve unit, also displacing 1.8 litres and exclusive to the 318iS, which delivers a sparkling 136 brake horsepower.

A 2 litre that is widely regarded as the world's smoothest six-cylinder engine.

And a 2.5 litre, which will take you to 60 mph in just 7.2 seconds.

Opt for a two or four-door saloon and you can select any of these engines (the 318iS and the 325i Sport are the exceptions; they are available in two-door form only).

Opt for the Touring and you may choose from the 1.8, 2.0 and 2.5 litre engines.

Or go for the Convertible and your choice is between the larger two.

The Sport is only available in 2.5 litre form, while the M3 has an engine all its own. A twin-cam, 2.3 litre, 16-valve unit that produces 215bhp, a 0-60 time of 6.7 seconds and a somewhat academic top speed of 149 mph.

The engine, and indeed the whole car, were designed by BMW Motorsport GmbH.

The result of their labours is a race-winning car in road-going form.

The many modifications that are visible on the 325i Sport were also created by BMW Motorsport.

As well as several more that you can't see; sports seats, steering wheel and suspension, a close ratio gearbox and a limited slip differential.

Of course, you can add such features to a 3 Series yourself.

BMW offer you four gearboxes, two forms of suspension, plus a whole host of extras and accessories to increase your enjoyment.

And all this on top of the conventional options of exterior colour and interior trim.

The BMW 3 Series is quite clearly a car for decision makers.

To: BMW Information Service, PO Box 46, Hounslow, Middlesex TW4 6NF. Tel: 081-897 6665. (Literature requests only) Please send me details of:

☐ BMW 316i ☐ BMW 318i ☐ BMW 318iS ☐ BMW 320i ☐ BMW 325i
☐ BMW M3 ☐ TOURING ☐ CONVERTIBLE

Mr, Mrs, Miss etc Initial Surname

Address

Town/City

County Postal Code

Telephone Age if under 18

Present Car Year of registration

I would like to arrange a test drive ☐ (tick box)

THE ULTIMATE DRIVING MACHINE

PRICES FOR THE BMW 3 SERIES RANGE FROM £12,425 FOR THE 316i (2 DOOR) £12,990 FOR THE M3 (4 DOOR ONLY). CLOSE RATIO GEARBOX ONLY AVAILABLE AS AN OPTION ON THE 325i. PRICES CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. EXCLUDE DELIVERY AND NUMBER PLATES. INCLUSIVE DELIVERY CHARGE INCORPORATING BMW EMERGENCY SERVICE £257+VAT. MODELS SHOWN FEATURE A NUMBER OF OPTIONAL EXTRAS. DOT FULL CONSUMPTION FIGURES FOR 316i (MANUAL) URBAN 25.1 MPG (9.7L/100KM), 56 MPG; 47.1 MPG (6.0L/100KM), 75 MPG; 35.8 MPG (12.5L/100KM). PERFORMANCE FIGURES SOURCE: MANUFACTURER & PERFORMANCE CAR MAGAZINE. FOR TRAVEL SALES: 071-629 5272.

OCCUPATION OF KUWAIT: EFFECTS ON BRITAIN

Oil prices force big rises in air and road travel costs

By KEVIN EASON AND HARVEY ELLIOTT

BIG increases in the cost of travelling by road and air seem certain to push inflation through the psychologically important 10 per cent barrier as the Gulf emergency last night continued to cause volatility in world oil markets.

On the day that the government announced that July inflation was held to 9.8 per cent, petrol prices rose by 4.5p a gallon and airlines announced increases of up to 6 per cent in transatlantic fares and holiday flights. Petrol costs have now risen by 35p a gallon since the start of the year and by about 15p a gallon in less than two weeks as

a result of Shell's decision to raise the cost of four star fuel to a record 217.8p.

Shell said that there might be further increases as the oil companies continue to react to nervous spot markets. The Shell rise is expected to be followed within days by similar rises among other big oil companies, who were studying Shell's decision last night.

British Airways has applied to the Civil Aviation Authority for permission to increase transatlantic air fares by 6 per cent from September 1, raising the cost of a single class ticket from Heathrow to New York from £900 to £954, almost matching surcharges already imposed by

American carriers such as Pan Am, Northwest, Delta and TWA. Britannia, the biggest charter airline, has told its tour operator customers that fuel charges will go up by about 5 per cent within 21 days, the equivalent of £4 on the cost of an average Mediterranean holiday.

Industry and motoring organizations greeted the increases with dismay, saying that they would have a big impact on inflation. The Confederation of British Industry said: "The implications of such large rises for inflation are not good. Inflation seems certain to rise again at a time when companies are battling to hold costs. Firms will clearly have to look

closely at their travel budgets, for the prospects of higher fuel prices in all areas are growing, not receding." The Road Haulage Association, which represents commercial transport fleets, said: "The industry is already suffering from the decline in the economy. Costs increasing at this rate are no help."

Most big tour operators have either taken out insurance against increases in fuel prices or given a guarantee that there will be no surcharges this year and therefore will not pass on the rises immediately. However, about a million people a year travel with companies not affiliated to the Association of British

Travel Agents which do not have such a guarantee and will face immediate increases. The cost of a package holiday next year looks certain to be up to 15 per cent higher as tour operators seek to claw back the losses they will make over this coming winter as they absorb the fuel price rises.

Oil companies say that they are powerless to prevent price rises as costs of crude oil and bulk petrol products continue to rise. Abta, the tour operators' group, said that it was receiving regular applications from smaller tour operators for permission to impose fuel surcharges and would be studying them to ensure that they were justified.

POLITICS

Labour says round-up alarm was premature

By NICHOLAS WOOD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR yesterday suggested that the government had unnecessarily alarmed the relatives of British people stranded in Kuwait by reacting precipitately to the Iraqi call for a round-up.

Gerald Kaufman, Labour's chief foreign affairs spokesman, criticised William Waldegrave, a junior Foreign Office minister, for describing the Iraqi order as "grave and sinister".

His criticism, opening a new line of attack on the government's handling of the Gulf confrontation, strengthened the impression that the united front maintained by the leading opposition parties in supporting ministers was fraying at the edges.

Labour's approach to the Gulf flare-up and its demand for a recall of Parliament will be discussed by its most senior figures early next week. Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, flies back from his holiday in Tuscany this weekend, and will review the situation with Roy Hattersley, his deputy, and Mr Kaufman. If British nationals in the region face further serious threats, as if British warships become involved in hostilities, Labour is almost certain to apply intense pressure for the recall to be called.

While acknowledging the scope for confusion over President Saddam Hussein's intentions, Mr Kaufman said

of the order, which the Iraqi authorities have so far failed to implement. "It's very important that, if the government is going to make statements, which it describes as grave, that it should be very sure indeed of its facts."

"Otherwise, obviously, relatives in the United Kingdom of people who are unable to leave Iraq and Kuwait will be very worried indeed. They are worried anyhow, and it's essential that their worries should not be added to unnecessarily."

Mr Kaufman's comments, in an interview for BBC Radio 4's *The World At One*, were made as Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, condemned the Iraqi order as the "tactics of the outlaw down the ages" and promised that the government would do all it could to bring about an orderly and safe evacuation of British citizens in Iraq and Kuwait.

Mr Kaufman also delivered a thinly veiled rebuke to the government for leaving a junior minister to present its response to events in the Gulf. "The country wanted to see the crisis handled and seen to be handled at the highest level."

He went on to reiterate calls by Labour and Liberal Democrat politicians for Britain and the United States to return to the United Nations Security Council to obtain explicit authority for their blockade of Iraq.



Airmen of 20 Squadron boarding a Hercules transporter at RAF Honington, Lincolnshire, yesterday, to fly to Cyprus to join other British forces

SUPPORT

Families advised not to wait for savings to go

By JOHN WINDER

FAMILIES whose incomes have dried up because the main wage-earner is working in Kuwait were yesterday advised to tell their building societies and banks, rather than wait for their savings run out.

Robert Hayward, Conservative MP for Kingswood, near Bristol, who recently set up a helpline at his home for relatives of workers in Kuwait, said that people might think they had enough money to last them for weeks or months, but direct debit payments from Kuwaiti companies and organisations had

already stopped.

Companies in the United Kingdom whose employees were in Kuwait and Iraq were being very helpful when approached by, or on behalf of, their employees' families, he said, adding that people should not take for granted that they would receive money later because of large Kuwaiti assets in Britain.

Mr Hayward was speaking at a press conference at which British Telecom presented a cheque for £2,500 to start a fund for the Gulf support group. It was established by amalgamating Mr Hayward's

helpline with another set up by Joanna Copley, an office manager, whose sister, Jane Katharine, aged 27, was trapped in Kuwait on her way to Kuala Lumpur.

The support group is now working from two committee rooms at the New Connaught Rooms in Great Queen Street, London. It passes on to callers any information it receives from the Foreign Office, from Iraq, which can still be reached by telephone, from other relatives and from those who have managed to escape.

The helpline telephone number is 071-430 9920.

CARGO

Arms shipment manifest studied

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE trade department said yesterday that its investigation into a cargo of 500 tonnes of arms and ammunition in Hull awaiting shipment to Jordan will go on "as long as it is necessary".

A spokesman said that officials were looking at the manifest of the Yugoslav-registered ship to ensure that the paperwork was in order and the cargo was as stated and as agreed for the export licence.

They were also making enquiries to ensure that its destination was Jordan. "We have stopped the ship pending

investigation," a spokesman said.

Tim Sainsbury, the trade minister, was involved in the decision to suspend the export licence for the shipment. Such a licence is needed for all arms shipments. Britain has an embargo under the UN resolution on arms to Iraq and Kuwait. There is no arms embargo on Jordan.

A licence was originally granted by the trade department for the cargo which was stated to be bound for Aquaba on the MV Tara, which is on charter to the Jordan National line.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Club yob - the scourge of Corfu

"Minimum space, maximum beds... prices are driven down by competition and holiday company pressures. It is a vicious circle which has left Corfu at the mercy of the more brutish of British tourists..." In *The Sunday Times* tomorrow David Selbourne reports how the beautiful Greek island of Corfu is being blighted by mobs of British boogymen for whom a summer holiday is one long drunken rampage

Inside the KGB

The man who runs the world's most feared security service talks for the first time to a Western writer. In *The Sunday Times Magazine* tomorrow, General Vladimir Kryuchkov opens the doors on the means, the minds and the methods of the Soviet Union's KGB

Paradise and the Devil

Scandalous Eleanor Darcy details her ideas on love, Paradise and the Devil to two journalists - and inspires a passionate affair between the interviewers... Read the first chapter of *Fay*



Weldon's new novel *Darcy's Utopia*, in the Books section tomorrow

Degree service

Exclusive subject-by-subject listings of all the degree places still available at colleges and polytechnics this autumn will be published in *The Sunday Times* from tomorrow for the next four weeks

Youths in staple gun attack

Two teenagers shot nearly 200 people with a high powered industrial staple gun "for a laugh", a court was told yesterday. A 39-year-old bus driver was blinded in one eye when he was hit by one of the 1½in staples. Others were less seriously injured.

The teenagers drove through Walsall, Wednesbury and Wolverhampton in a van firing indiscriminately at pedestrians. Wolverhampton crown court was told. One of the youths told police that they fired the gun to hit people in the legs to "see them jump".

Gavin Mainwaring, aged 19, of Alton Avenue, Willenhall, and Paul Whittaker, aged 18, of Willenhall Street, Darlaston, both West Midlands, admitted three charges involving wounding and assault and were sent to a young offender institution for nine months.

Girl dies in fall

Police were last night looking for the parents of a girl aged 12 who died after she fell 100ft from a cliff onto jagged rocks at Watchet, Somerset. An RAF helicopter took her to Musgrove Park hospital, Taunton, but she was dead on arrival. The girl's grandmother has been informed but her mother, believed to live in Warminster, Wiltshire, had not yet been contacted by police.

Repair disruption for North Sea rigs

By KERRY GILL

BRITAIN'S oil production, already affected by strike action on North Sea rigs, will face further disruption later this month when urgent repair work is carried out on the undersea pipeline leading to the Flotta oil terminal, Orkney.

The flow of up to 2.8 million barrels of oil from seven fields will be delayed by the two-week repair programme on a quarter mile section of pipeline, six miles north-east of the Claymore platform.

Meanwhile, a fifth wildcat strike will affect North Sea oil and gas industries today as contract workers continue their efforts to enforce improved safety and working



McDonalds confident of court action failing

conditions, as well as union recognition offshore, on the oil companies. The move comes in the wake of a decision by the unions involved to ballot the workforce on making the strike official.

Shell, one of the companies hardest hit in the two-week old action, yesterday began legal proceedings in the Court of Session, Scotland's supreme civil court, to evict 240 men staging a sit-in on platforms and fields in the East Shetland basin. Men dismissed for refusing to leave the six installations after last week's strikes have been sent individual letters telling them to leave.

The unofficial Offshore Industry Liaison Committee, the body behind the action, confirmed yesterday that it would oppose the court application. Ronald McDonald, the chairman, said: "Some months ago we retained one of Scotland's top advocates to look into aspects of the law. We anticipated this move by Shell."

Mr McDonald said that he was confident that the move would fail. Last night, the Offshore Contractors' Council said the strike call was astonishing and provocative. "Clearly such action can only further inflame this dispute," it said.

Denning guarded by police

By JOHN YOUNG

LORD Denning, former Master of the Rolls, said last night that he was under police protection at his home in Hampshire because of concern over reaction to an article in *The Spectator*.

In an interview in the magazine this week, he was quoted as saying that if the death penalty had been imposed on the Guildford Four, "they'd probably have hanged the right men. Not proved against them, that's all."

He said yesterday that "the police are taking it so seriously here that they feel I may be an object of Irish terrorists. As a result of this publication they felt I needed special protection, so I am now under police protection."

Alastair Logan, solicitor for Carole Richardson and Patrick Armstrong, two of the four, whose convictions for the bombing of a public house in 1974 were quashed last year after they had served 15 years in prison, said last night that he had written demanding a retraction and apology. He was also seeking an undertaking that there would be no further publication, and proposing compensation.

Letters, page 11

Carnival rift over finances

By DANIEL TREISMAN

ONE week before the Notting Hill Carnival in London opens, the organising committee's vice-chairman has resigned after accusing the committee of financial incompetence.

The announcement came as committee members expressed frustration that funds are inadequate to finance Europe's biggest street festival. Up to a million people are expected to attend the event over the August bank holiday.

Colin Francis, vice-chairman of the carnival enterprise committee, said in a letter to other board members last week that he would remain a committed member of the body until the end of September.

He attacked some board members for "total lack of management skill" and "lack of financial experience", and said the "democratic manner in which the board is run is tantamount to a poor voluntary organisation".

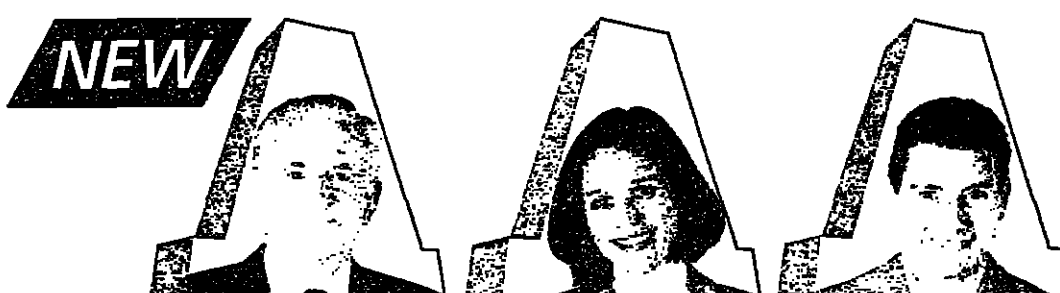
He criticised continuous pandering to "bogus community pressures", which he said would result in "a continual cycle of no-growth and negative economic development".

Mr Francis, who headed the north Kensington task force for nearly three years, resigned from his position last September to become managing director of a building contractor. After serving on last year's carnival committee,

Mr Francis said that the event could be made profitable by application of sound business principles, with strict accounting to win the confidence of sponsors.

Mr Francis said that he did not wish to attack members of the board personally. "They put in a phenomenal amount of time and commitment, which is all unpaid, for no reward," he said.

Claire Holder, committee chairwoman, said: "In a sense, we are a poor voluntary organisation. We're trying to put the carnival on a proper business footing, but we're funded in a way which does not recognise the need for any pump priming."



BUILD YOURSELF A SUBSTANTIAL LUMP SUM AND GET LIFE ASSURANCE IMMEDIATELY!

TRIPLE A

Life Assurance when you join. A healthy lump sum when you leave!

Saving for a lump sum with built-in life assurance is simple with Sun Alliance's Triple A Plan.

- Save a regular sum each month to build up a lump sum over 10 years, which is enhanced by bonuses.
- Life Assurance on joining the scheme - with just 4 simple medical questions to answer. Plus accident cover for your premiums.

Post the coupon today for more details of this with-profits savings plan, with built-in guarantees, and bonuses dependent on future profits. Once accepted we'll send you a FREE Personal Illustration showing how Triple A Plan could work for you!

Or phone HORSHAM (0403) 59009. (Weekdays 9am to 8pm) quoting ref AL

FREE Digital Desk Clock **FREE** Plug-in Telephone **PLUS FREE** Weekend Break

Sent without obligation when you apply (one gift per applicant). When you take out the plan you'll receive this stylish telephone.

If you invest £25 or more a month you'll receive an additional free gift - a relaxing weekend break for two. Accumulation is free - you just pay for your breakfast and evening meal.

APPLY BY 31 AUG 90 Although these terms may be available later they cannot be guaranteed after this date.

3. Answer "Yes" or "No" to each question below. If you answer "Yes" to any question, please attach details. You may still be accepted. YES NO

a. Have you attended, or have you been advised to attend, for any consultation, treatment, or tests at any hospital, clinic or surgery within the last two years? ☐ YES ☐ NO

b. Have you ever received, or have you any reason for expecting to receive, any counselling, medical advice, treatment or tests, including blood tests, in connection with AIDS, Hepatitis or any sexually transmitted disease? ☐ YES ☐ NO

c. Has any proposal made to an insurance company on your life been declined, postponed or accepted on special terms? ☐ YES ☐ NO

d. Do you participate in any hazardous activity? ☐ YES ☐ NO

We may call you to help with any queries you may have.

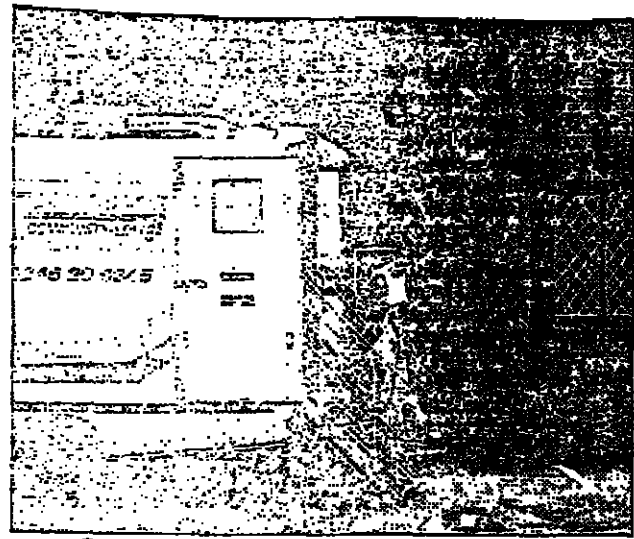
Any other amount £..... (min £15)

Available only to persons residing in the United Kingdom. Underwritten by Sun Alliance & London Assurance Co. Ltd. Member of LAUTRO.

SUN ALLIANCE
LIFE & PENSIONS

0403 591 111 INT. 1

Rural calm and inner city confusion greet first poll tax bills



A Securicor van collecting tax payments in Albury

THE villagers of Albury in Hertfordshire have grown used to the large men in blue helmets who arrive each month to take away their money. Since June, the district council has employed Securicor to collect its poll tax.

Dacorum district council in Hemel Hempstead has contracted the security company to collect poll tax and council rent payments from Albury and 30 other villages. The Conservative-controlled authority is the first in Britain to make use of Securicor's Community-Link scheme, which is designed to assist those areas without a bank to pay their dues at a lower cost than by payment through the Post Office.

The council estimates that the 48p charge set by the Post Office for each poll tax transaction would cost the district about £500,000, while the Community-Link scheme is estimated to cost less than £50,000.

Last month, 1,000 people used the service, which parish councillors have greeted enthusiastically. The success comes in an area where collecting the poll tax has been notably straightforward with 96.5 per cent of Dacorum's 100,000 poll tax payers meeting their monthly instalments on the £393 charge, the highest proportion in the country.

The area, which lies in west Hertfordshire's prosperous commuter belt, has low unemployment. Peter Batchelor, the council's assistant director of finance, says that half the payers use bank direct debits.

He added: "The Securicor scheme is an attempt to get the poll tax to the villages which have a high proportion of elderly people who do not have the mobility to get to a bank. The vans are secure and reliable cash offices. They are there to assist and not to chase people for

Tom Giles contrasts the experiences of two councils as they collect the poll tax

arrears. "People are very honourable when it comes to paying their bills. This is an affluent region made up of new 'garden towns' and rural villages. There are no urban difficulties."

The picture of rural acquiescence contrasts sharply with Lambeth, in south London. There poll-tax arrears are among the highest in the country.

About 20,000 of Lambeth's 177,000 registered community charge payers have yet to receive their first bill. Among those who have, non-payment is estimated at up to 60 per cent.

The council cannot be specific because 55 per cent of payers are thought to be entitled to claim a

rebate. Lambeth has a mobile, low-income, racially-mixed population, which makes poll tax collection a daunting task. The council was the last in the country to set its community charge, at £547.89, a figure which has been capped. The council quickly launched a campaign publicising rebates.

A council spokeswoman said the rebates were applicable because Lambeth was the fourth most deprived area in Britain. "We are, therefore, guaranteed a certain amount of income from the government to pay for this. We do not send a bill to those who are most reliant on a rebate until they have worked out their entitlement."

Despite the capping, the environment department wrote to the council last week ordering it not to send out any further bills until the new rate set at £521.63 was reduced further. Lambeth cannot

send out any new billings until it hears the result of a test case to be brought by Haringey council later this month. Haringey, in north London, has challenged the government's call for its community charge to be further reduced after capping. The Lambeth computer has so many calculations to contend with that any revised rate may be a long time emerging.

The council has yet to issue any summonses to non-payers, although it says these will eventually be taken to court. Bailiffs have been ruled out as expensive and likely to provoke unrest.

The spokeswoman said the council was trying to collect the tax "in a manner which helps a poor and deprived area."

"We are therefore happier giving debt counselling and payment advice rather than using forceful tactics."

Rushdie video ban lifted after author supports appeal

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A BAN ON a video depicting Salman Rushdie as a drunken murderer of Muslims, was lifted yesterday after the author gave his support to an appeal for its public distribution.

Mr Rushdie said that a continuation of the ban would have damaged the process of reconciliation for which he has been working with Muslims since publication of his book *The Satanic Verses*. Leading Muslims said last night, however, that the release of *International Guerrillas* was a separate issue from the book and would not lead to reconciliation or the withdrawal of the *fatwa* against the author.

Mr Rushdie, who has been in hiding since the late Ayatollah Khomeini sentenced him to death, submitted written evidence for Mohammed Fayyaz, the video distributor, who launched the appeal. Mr Fayyaz, aged 54, who is the biggest distributor of Asian videos in Britain and who stands to make a fortune from the Urdu-language film, successfully appealed to the video appeals committee after the British Board of Film Classification (BBFC) refused to grant the film a certificate.

In a statement to the committee, which was formed as an independent body under the 1984 Video Recordings Act, Mr Rushdie said that the ban could frustrate his plans for reconciliation and urged

the committee to reverse it. However, Muhammad Ghayas, assistant director of the Muslim Centre in London, said after the hearing: "The argument that the book should be protected but that the video should be banned turned the idea of freedom of speech upside down. The lifting of the ban now makes sense of it. But the video and the book are different issues. Nothing has happened which will bring about reconciliation. The conflict over *Satanic Verses* remains and the *fatwa* stays valid."

Mr Fayyaz, of Famous Video, a south London company which owns the distribution rights, said that *International Guerrillas* will be available in the shops within two weeks and that an English sub-titled version could be released. He added: "The film will not incite anyone to do anything. It's pure entertainment."

Sajjad Gul, the producer of the film, said that British justice and democracy had prevailed. There were plans to show the video at cinemas in seven cities in England. The appeals committee decided unanimously to allow distribution of the video and granted an 18 certificate. James Ferman, director of the BBFC, said that Mr Rushdie's statement had been crucial. "I wish we had had access to it before we made our decision three weeks ago. The board was convinced that we had no

discretion. We felt we were bound by the law."

The decision to ban the film had been the most difficult the board had ever taken but the board had sought to protect Mr Rushdie, he said. "Supposing we had passed this film and Rushdie was killed, would we ever forgive ourselves?"

Mr Rushdie, an Urdu-speaker, said that he had seen the film but in spite of its clearly abusive content he did not wish to seek the dubious protection of censorship. He said: "As a writer, I am opposed in principle to the use of the archaic criminal law, sedition and criminal libel, against creative works... as an excuse for imposing censorship by way of prior restraint. I believe that these antiquated common laws now serve no purpose and are contrary to the freedom of expression guarantee in the European Convention. I make no exception to this principle even in the case of a film which quite plainly vilifies me."

Mr Rushdie said that he had more confidence than the BBFC in the film audience, Muslim and non-Muslim alike, "to recognise this film for the distorted, incompetent piece of trash that it is, and to understand that the 'Salman Rushdie' character is ludicrously unlike the real me."

A written judgment will be issued soon and the fee for the appeal refunded to Mr Fayyaz.

Leading article, page 11



Water music: Simon Hewitt-Jones, aged eight, (left) and his brother Thomas, aged five, practising with National Youth Orchestra double-bass player Margaret Graham during a summer school and music festival in Ambleside, Cumbria

Guinness jury asked to study if £5m fee legal

By PAUL WILKINSON

JURORS in the Guinness trial were yesterday asked to consider whether a £5.2 million payment to one of the company's directors could have been legal.

The trial judge, Mr Justice Henry, said the prosecution had claimed that it was simply too big to be honest, but Ernest Saunders, Guinness's former chairman, who approved the payment in principle, said that it was merely the necessary rate.

The money was paid to Thomas Ward, an American lawyer, for seven weeks' work during Guinness's £2.7 billion takeover of the Distillers drinks group in 1986. The judge, on the third day of his summing up, told jurors: "You would have to be very well paid to earn £5.2 million in the course of the whole of your life. You would have to earn £100,000 for 52 years and not too many of us are going to manage that."

He said that Mr Saunders had contended: "We needed him, and he came expensive." Mr Saunders, the judge said, was "working all the hours God gave on this bid, very much the captain of the ship, and was getting paid £225,000 a year at that time, as opposed to this £5.2 million."

Mr Saunders and three other businessmen have denied a total of 22 counts alleging theft, false accounting and breaches of the Companies Act, during Guinness's takeover battle with the Argill supermarket chain for control

of Distillers. With the former Guinness chairman in the dock are Gerald Ronson, head of Britain's second largest private company, Heron International, the stockbroker Anthony Farnes, and the financier Sir James Lyons.

Mr Saunders had said that Mr Ward was a formidable lawyer, and was responsible for setting up a deal with Distillers for them to pay Guinness's bid costs, the judge said. That arrangement had saved Guinness £15 million in underwriting fees but the main prosecution witness, Guinness's former finance director Olivier Roux, had said that the agreement was the idea of a lawyer in Guinness's own firm of solicitors. Mr Saunders had claimed, the judge said, that Ward had them over a barrel, but the jury was entitled to look at the barrel. Were there not some cards Mr Saunders could have played?

Guinness's president, Lord Iveagh, had denied Mr Saunders's suggestion that he had agreed to the fee, and another director Edward Guinness, had said he thought it was an "outrageous fee" when he learned of it later. Mr Saunders, however, in his evidence had accused them of using hindsight and said that if at the time he had suggested a fee of £10 million no one would have objected. He claimed that Mr Ward had also been important in keeping Distillers' directors in line and helping Mr Roux.

On the other hand, the judge continued, Kingsley Napley, Guinness's solicitors during part of the subsequent investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry, had made a formal complaint that Mr Ward was never available. The prosecution had also pointed out that advice from counsel on the merger agreement had cost only £100,000, and the fees for Guinness's original solicitors during the bid, Freshfields, with 18 staff working on the deal, were only £1.8 million. The judge turned to a lunch meeting between Mr Ronson and Mr Saunders on April 3 1986, at the height of the takeover, at which Mr Ronson claimed that his £5 million success fee was agreed with Mr Saunders. Mr Saunders had claimed that it was merely a routine meeting to discuss future property deals, but the court had heard that the lunch engagement entry in Mr Saunders's diary had been partly erased. The judge said: "If this was a routine meeting, there was no reason for it to be erased. If it was not, one has to look for some significance. If it was Mr Saunders's erasure it only makes sense if he knew it was a crucial meeting."

The judge will continue his summing-up on Monday morning.

Sales of H-cars fail to halt fall

The enthusiastic rush for cars carrying the new H registration plate this month has failed to lift the motor industry out of its sales slump (Kevin Eason writes).

Manufacturers had hoped that the introduction of the August registration would bring a revival in a disappointing year in which sales are down by about 10 per cent, forcing them to offer discounts of up to £1,000 on some models.

However, according to the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, registrations in the first ten days of this month did nothing to lift their spirits, as they were 11.47 per cent down on the same period last year.

Coal into oil

A £40 million pilot project to produce oil from coal was opened by David Hunt, the Welsh secretary, yesterday. The plant next to British Coal's Point of Air colliery in Chwyd, uses a process claimed to be twice as productive as other methods. The project, backed by £800,000 from the Welsh Office, could eventually employ 80 people and convert two-and-a-half tonnes of coal a day into oil.

School shut

A special school has been closed by John MacGregor, the education secretary, because he believed pupils were at risk after inspectors criticised teaching methods and discipline. Holly Court school, Camden, north London, also had a history of inappropriate relationships. Peter Mitchell, Camden's director of education, said. There have been allegations of a sexual incident between pupils.

IRA campaign

IRA sympathisers have illegally put up hundreds of posters in Roman Catholic parts of west Belfast warning local people to keep clear of police and army patrols. On the posters the IRA says that many attacks it had intended for the security forces have had to be abandoned to avoid injuring passers by. Murdered and maimed civilians have become an increasingly regular feature of IRA attacks.

V&A heads for a £2.3m deficit

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE Victoria and Albert Museum in London has warned the government that it faces a £2.3 million deficit this year, despite a 14 per cent increase in its annual grant.

The warning comes in a table and financial submission to David Mellor, the arts minister, which shows that the museum could face losses of almost £10 million by 1993 at the end of its three-year projected funding cycle.

It puts in jeopardy the five-year plan ordered by Richard Luce, the former arts minister, which the V & A has submitted along with other national museums and galleries.

Together with last year's staffing restructuring, which made eight senior curators redundant, the five-year plan represents the most radical change since the museum was built 80 years ago. It has been devised partly in answer to criticisms in a 1988 National Audit Office report which castigated the museum for its poor storage, conservation

and inadequate records. The objectives include improving the display of objects, providing up-to-date records of the collections, establishing a research programme, enhancing the education service under its newly appointed head, developing a branch museum in Bradford and improving public services and access to the galleries.

The museum also hopes to restore visitor numbers from the present 1.4 million to the 2 million of six years ago. A copy of the strategic plan, which the V & A has submitted along with the financial submission.

"It is a projection of what we want to do, not the announcement of a deficit," Jim Close, assistant director of the V&A, said. "It means that elements of the strategic plan, such as marketing, have had less resources than we would have wanted." He would not say what elements would suffer, but that the shortfall represented 15 per cent of the museum's projected needs.

Vicars warned against cheap church repairs

By RONALD FAUX

ENGLISH Heritage, the guardian of ancient buildings, has warned vicars and parish authorities about the dangers of repairing buildings on the cheap. The advice comes after a former vicar of St Mary the Virgin at Knowlesy, Liverpool, used unemployed men supplied by the Manpower Services Commission to repair a church roof that turned out to be badly affected by dry rot.

The Rev Karl Ayad, vicar of Knowlesy, said: "The vicar at the time had the good intention of giving work to unemployed men who would restore the roof within a budget the church could afford. He assumed they would be skilled workers who had the misfortune to not have a job."

They were not. Even though the work was supervised by the diocesan architect the problems soon began to show.

"When a large mushroom emerged from the rafters, surveyors found an advanced case of dry rot extending into the walls of the church which is a grade II listed building."

Ian Jordin, historic buildings division manager of English Heritage, said that the church had not followed up its initial enquiry about a grant for the original restoration. "We warned about the limitations of MSC labour and the need for a precise repair specifications to be approved by us. He [the vicar] probably thought we were being far too fussy."

With the parish facing a second even heavier restoration bill, the only alternative was for the parish council to sue the architect recommended by the diocese who was expected to oversee the work. After a four-year legal battle, an out of court settle-

ment of £215,000 plus costs was reached. Mr Ayad said: "The church was a forest of scaffolding for nearly a year." Ten years after the first repair work began, the church had had a sound roof helped by a £400,000 grant from English Heritage.

● Vicars' wives are still neglected by many dioceses in the Church of England, leading to discontent and loneliness, a survey published yesterday in *The Church of England Newspaper* says. Although the wives often give financial and moral support to their spouses, they can be left not knowing who to talk to in case of marital difficulties or bereavement, the survey reports.

● A call for the disestablishment of the Church of England will be debated at the Liberal Democrat conference in Blackpool next month.

Hear a Whisper up to 100 FEET AWAY!

Incredible WHISPER2000 Gives You Super Hearing

FOR £8.95 ONLY £8 +p&p

These are the SAME famous Whisper2000 headsets that have been nationally publicised on TV and the same as those sold earlier this year by us in the UK for over £20.00 including p&p. Now we are slashing prices by more than half. UK Buyers Network is offering Whisper2000 for the unbelievable price of just £8.95 whilst stocks last.

Don't be fooled by the appearance of this device. Whisper2000 has been designed to look like an ordinary pocket radio, but is actually a major breakthrough in sound interception and amplification technology. State-of-the-art electronic engineering actually allows you to hear a whisper from up to 100 feet away. It works so incredibly well that you literally won't believe your ears!

Just imagine what it would be like to hear sounds that you could never hear before. Studies show that there are thousands of different sounds that are not normally audible to the average person. Slip on a pair of the technologically advanced headphones and you'll instantly hear hidden sounds. Incredibly, you'll be able to hear every single word of a conversation in the next room loudly and clearly, or a pin drop from 25 feet away! Take a walk outdoors and you'll hear birds sing like you've never heard



"Looks Like An Ordinary Radio"

them sing before, and hear deer coming before they hear you! It's an out-doorsman's dream come true.

Whisper2000 has dozens of practical uses! Take it to the movies, theatre, or lecture hall and you'll never miss a word. It's great for watching TV with a spouse — just keep the volume on low and turn on Whisper2000. She can read while you watch the football match! Now you can enjoy the crisp, clear sound of a TV or radio playing at low levels, without blasting everyone else in the room. Experience the fascinating world of super hearing — order today! Whisper2000 weighs just 3oz, is small enough to fit into any shirt pocket, has a belt clip and lightweight headphones. Uses one 9-volt battery (sold separately). Complete with one year money back guarantee. Your statutory rights remain unaffected.

FOR ENQUIRIES RELATING TO THIS OFFER PHONE 0796 535446. We deliver to all addresses in the UK (excluding N. Ireland). Orders are despatched within 21 days from receipt of order.

ORDER BY PHONE ACCESS or VISA 0796 535446. 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week.

DELUXE MODEL NOW AVAILABLE! Yes, we can now offer the Whisper2000 Mark 2 with superior reception through the high sensitivity 'outdoor earpiece' headphones — less conspicuous, less cumbersome — much more effective — YOURS FOR JUST £14.95 plus £2.55 p&p.

MAIL BEFORE 29th SEPTEMBER 1990 FOR THIS AMAZING OFFER!

YES! Please tick me the following sets of UK Buyers Network, (Dept. E1870), 118 West Street, Farnham, Kent ME11 2DB.

I enclose cheque/PO for £... I enclose payment by UK Buyers Network. Or debit my Access Visa Card No.

Signature: Mr/Ms/Mrs (Please use block capitals) Address: ... Phone: ... Total Mail Order P&C V A UK Buyers Network.

Expert brought in to combat trade in print forgeries

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

A PRIVATE counterfeit expert has been brought in by leading print and publishing houses in an attempt to stem the growth of art forgers producing prints, posters and limited edition works.

David Jenkins, who was hired six months ago by the International Print and Publishing Association, said: "Three years ago this trade was probably worth a few hundred thousand pounds but in the last two years it has mushroomed into millions."

Using a fast car and a portable telephone Mr Jenkins stalks the illegal rings of moonlighting printers, dealers and distributors who are behind the lucrative black market. They use the latest high technology printing equipment.

Laser scanning lithographic printing can scan an image in seconds, putting the basic palette of colours on to photographic plates from which hundreds of thousands of the copies of a night can be made. Forgeries of high quality pictures and posters, normally retailing for up to £17, are the main product of the cut-price counterfeiters.

The rings are most active in Bristol and London but operate wherever a legitimate printer is failing badly and is prepared to turn presses over to forgers.

The forgers' latest target is the work of Bob Talbot, the photographer, whose pictures of whales, dolphins and porpoises have become popular.

Other work to be counterfeited includes that of David Bailey, the photographer, and limited edition artist prints. These normally retail for about £600 but the forgeries sell for as little as £25.

At the top end of the market some honest publishers have confessed to losing up to a fifth of their income to the forgers, Sarah Shuffell of the Fine Arts Trade Guilds, said. Experienced dealers can readily spot a fraud but the public, attracted by the low

cost, may believe the work is genuine. This week the recently re-formed arts and antiques squad at Scotland Yard launched an investigation into forged copies of works by Sir William Russell Flint, the British watercolourist and etcher.

Some experts have suggested that the forgers are using the latest desk top digital colour photocopiers whose growing sophistication led the Bank of England to redesign the £5 note. But police and print experts doubt that these are being used to make fine art forgeries.

Paul Lindsell, a Kodak spokesman, said that there were still problems in balancing the colours of original prints with photocopies, and Steve Cathie of P J Graphics in Acton, west London, said that the quality was still too crude and the costs too high to attract art forgers. Instead, the counterfeiters are almost certainly using the laser scanning printing technology to make prints which, at first glance, may look good but are almost certainly inferior to the originals, Mr Cathie said.

Until photocopiers arrive which can match the quality or costs of modern lithographic printing the main task for the art world detectives is to combat the corrupt printers and dealers.

There have been successes. In the West Midlands three men are being held on bail after police seized forged prints, posters and T-shirts worth an estimated £30,000. They have been charged under the new Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988.

Mr Jenkins said there were a further 30 prosecutions pending as police forces became aware that forging pictures was now a criminal rather than a civil offence.

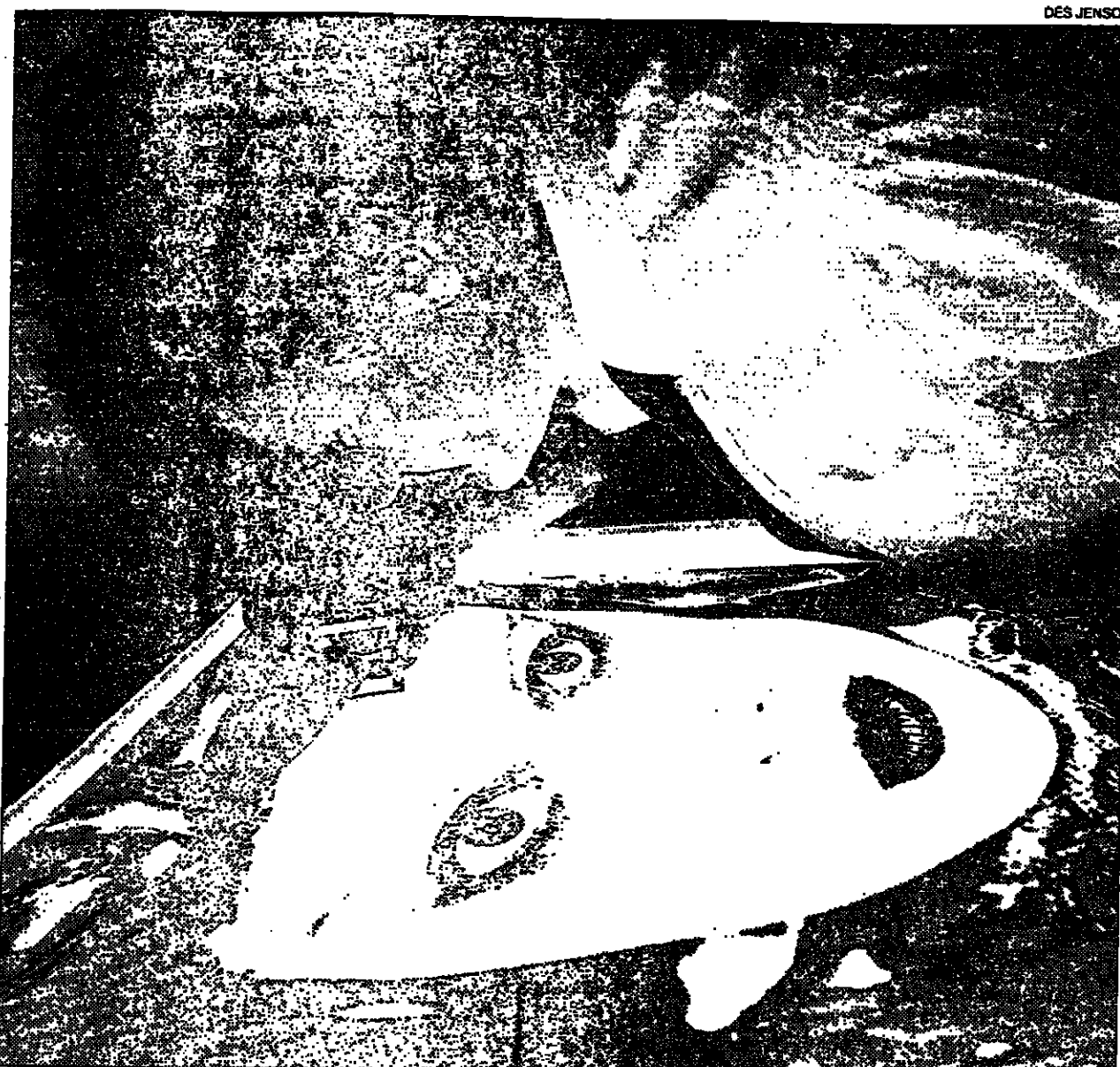
An authenticating system using the latest in coloured metal foil technology may be one way of beating the forgers. The foils, when scanned by a laser, printing process or

copier, reproduce as jet black rather than as colour.

Don Tompkins, of the Advanced Holography Laboratories at Loughborough University, said the foils were being used increasingly by software disc and video tape manufacturers as a way of reassuring customers that the goods were genuine and tamper-free. The metal foils, which can be made with individual signatures, could be added to the corner of prints to show they are from approved publishers.

Charles Ross, of Black and White Publishing of London, believes that foils may help but says that the 1988 laws need to be tightened if talented photographers, artists, publishers and honest printers are to be saved from bankruptcy.

"People who have made money from bootlegging are now hiring their own photographers, sets and actors to copy our images," he said. "What people have to realise is that originality and quality carry a price, otherwise the prints market in Britain will become a place where we copy ideas rather than create them."



Facing reality: Steve Cathie checking a proof of a poster at his London graphics company before printing. Counterfeiters use the latest laser techniques, he says

Genetic factor 'in most cancers'

By THOMSON PRENTICE MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

INHERITED risk factors may contribute to most cancers, a leading British researcher said at an international conference on the disease yesterday.

Strong evidence is emerging to show that cancers of the breast, ovaries and bowel have a genetic link, and new findings suggest that some cigarette smokers have inherited a vulnerability to lung cancer, Bruce Ponder of Cambridge University said at the conference in Hamburg.

A study of almost 400 families in the United States showed that a genetic component contributed to the early onset of lung cancer among smokers, although smoking itself was the main cause.

Dr Ponder, of the human cancer genetics research group at Cambridge, added that the best long-term prospects for reducing cancer deaths lay with screening and prevention rather than with the treatment of advanced forms of the disease.

Dr Ponder is leading a study funded by the Cancer Research Campaign involving women who have a family history of breast or ovarian cancer. The aim is to make it possible to identify family members who have a higher than normal risk.

Green plans 'may harm countryside'

By JOHN YOUNG

MANY of the policies which "green" campaigners are urging the government to adopt could seriously damage the economy of the countryside and its wildlife, the British Field Sports Society says.

In a submission to Chris Patten, the environment secretary, and John Gummer, the agriculture minister, the society says that much of the case made by the so-called green lobby ignores the fact that rural areas are a resource from which people make their living.

Until recently, the countryside was managed to meet the demands of a largely urban population seeking food, energy and recreation at minimal cost, the society says. Townspeople showed little or no interest in its day to day management or in the living conditions of those who worked there.

Now, as a result of growing awareness of environmental issues, they are seeking a greater say in its management, but with little understanding that the countryside is a resource which has been developed and organised to provide employment as well as recreation.

The decline in farming is having a severe effect on the countryside, the society says. Farmers are being encouraged to turn to light industry and tourism and thus fewer people with a working knowledge of the countryside are available

to manage its natural resources. Returns from farming now leave no margin for investment in the long-term generation of natural habitats.

Government action to reduce food surpluses and diversify the rural economy has resulted in policies which offer little for the wider countryside, the society says. "The problems faced by our national parks provide clear evidence of the effects of encouraging people into specific areas of countryside. A policy of regulated and restricted access is essential and is being increasingly recognised through nature conservation legislation both here and in the other nations of the EC."

Balanced management of the countryside needs the support of government, but its prosecution is most effectively and economically carried out by those with a vested interest, the society says. The employment of gamekeepers, ghillies and foresters in the role of wildlife managers is not always understood by the public or by those who seek to promote a "green" image.

John Hopkinson, the society's director, yesterday urged the government in framing its forthcoming white paper to take account of the role of those actually responsible for maintaining the countryside. "We cannot have rural policy being dictated from the car window," he said.

WI backs calls for milk hormone ban

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN'S Institutes have joined the growing campaign for a ban on the use of genetically engineered hormones to boost milk yield in cows.

Jean Varnam, chairman of the National Federation of Women's Institutes, which represents 325,000 women, has written to John Gummer, the agriculture minister, and Kenneth Clarke, the health secretary, pointing out that women and children are the main consumers of milk. She says that the interest of producers would not be served if a question mark over the wholesomeness of milk arose in the public mind.

Milk from cows injected with the hormone bovine somatotropin (BST) as part of secret trials is still being sold for public consumption despite a provisional recommendation by the government's veterinary products committee last month that

the drug should not be licensed for commercial use.

The committee's recommendation was based on concern about the effect of BST on animal health and about the method of its manufacture. A final decision is expected next month.

Mrs Varnam writes: "It is our view that BST is not a product which dairy farmers need, and that the risks for human health and the pressure which the use of the hormone would place on the already hard-working dairy cow are unnecessary."

The government's scientific advisers have said that they are satisfied that milk from BST-treated cows whose yield is increased by up to 20 per cent, is safe for human consumption. However, pressure for BST to be banned has come from an alliance of consumers groups and animal welfare activists.

IF YOU ARE
ABOUT TO MOVE
YOU WANT A
MORTGAGE RATE
THAT ISN'T.

13.75%

FIXED

(14.8%)

APR

This rate is fixed for two years,
so drop into your local branch today as funds are limited.

ALLIANCE ■ LEICESTER

YOU GET A SMARTER INVESTOR AT THE ALLIANCE & LEICESTER.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS
ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Written quotations are available on request.

Loans not available to those under 18 years of age. Alliance & Leicester Building Society, Hove Administration, Hove Park, Hove, East Sussex BN3 7AZ.

ALLIANCE & LEICESTER BUILDING SOCIETY.

Death toll nears 200 as peace talks begin without Buthelezi

From RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

ZULUS and supporters of the African National Congress fought bloody battles in Soweto township for a second successive day yesterday and the African National Congress said sections of state security were promoting the violence.

At the same time a hastily convened peace forum began in Soweto to try to stop the bloodshed, which this week has claimed nearly 200 lives and left at least a thousand people injured in South African black townships.

But the Zulu-based Inkatha movement, one of the main participants, was missing from the talks at the Protea police station in the sprawling township on Johannesburg's southern border. The peace forum was set up after a meeting late on Thursday night between Adriaan Vlok, the law and order minister,

and Nelson Mandela, the ANC deputy president.

As the meeting, meant to include representatives of all the parties involved in the violence, including the police, began yesterday, renewed fighting broke out.

Earlier yesterday, on a bridge over the railway line into Johannesburg, seriously outnumbered police confronted hundreds of heavily armed Zulus who marched out of a hostel in Soweto's Jabavu area, apparently intent on attacking houses. The hostel is one of many in which bachelor migrant workers from Natal and the KwaZulu homeland live.

At one point gunmen in a crowd of 500 Zulu workers opened fire with automatic rifles on a crowd in the Zondi district of Soweto, killing at least one man and wounding several other people. Police smothered the confrontation

security services are employing the tactics they used in the countries of southern Africa to bring about insecurity, fear and a willingness to submit to draconian pressures.

Strenuous efforts were being made yesterday to involve Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the Inkatha leader, in the peace forum. Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi accuse each other of refusing to share a platform.

Colonel Steve van Rooyen, a senior aide to Mr Vlok, said he had told Mr Mandela that an Inkatha representative would have to be appointed to the peace forum. He said Mr Mandela had indicated that he had no objection.

Government sources said there had earlier been "tough talk" between President de Klerk and Mr Mandela about the latter's evident refusal to meet Chief Buthelezi.

Newspaper editorials yesterday reflected the increasing concern over butchering of innocent people for political ends. Aggrey Klaaste, the outspoken editor of the black newspaper, *The Sowetan*, declared in a signed leader: "The chilling thing is that we do not know exactly who is behind the chaos. The rumour about a group of men driving around Soweto is adding sinister confusion. We do not know who is behind this mayhem... We have to drum into the minds of all people that the violence serves nobody's interests, we must get together to stop the killing."

Beeld, an Afrikaans daily, said Mr Mandela and Chief Buthelezi were refusing to meet because ANC factions feared talks between them would acknowledge the chief as an important leader.

Canadian Indians cut rail links

Ottawa — Canadian Ojibwa Indians have blockaded two main east-west railway lines in their campaign to get the government to act on long-standing native land claims (John Best writes).

A Canadian National line remained blocked for the fifth consecutive day yesterday northeast of Thunder Bay, Ontario. A blockade of the Canadian Pacific line 75 miles to the south went into its second day.

The blockades have effectively stopped the movement of both goods and passenger trains from Ontario to western Canada.

Hot-air balloon pilot charged

Sydney — Michael Sanby, aged 36, a South African-born balloon pilot, will be charged with the manslaughter of the 13 people who died in the world's worst hot-air balloon accident.

Mr Sanby was flying a hot-air balloon which collided with another full of tourists watching a sunrise near Alice Springs on August 13 last year. The collision ripped open the canopy of the other balloon, sending it plunging 2,000ft, killing all on board. (Reuters)

Boy arrested on hacking charge

Farmington, New York — A hacker, aged 14, suspected of penetrating a Pentagon computer has been arrested with 12 others on charges of breaking into a computer at a university in Washington state, officials said.

The boy, who was not identified, broke into the computer at the City University of Bellevue in May, according to the senior investigator, Donald Delaney of the New York state police. (APF)

A level head can make up for a missing A level.

Perhaps your exam results were not as good as expected, but you may well have the qualifications we're looking for.

We'll find out when we put you through an examination of our own.

Over three days, we'll judge your reactions under pressure, quick-wittedness and all-round strength of character.

Pass the test and, after a year at Sandhurst, we'll offer you the chance to specialise in any area from catering to gunnery.

Which means that if you wanted to return to civilian life after your short service

commission, you'll be well qualified to do so.

If you don't, you'll be able to take full advantage of an exciting career that gives you the opportunity to travel the world.

Which should interest anyone who's just slipped up in their Geography A level.

For more information about a career as an Army Officer, please telephone 0345 300 111 at any time. Or post the coupon.

Full name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Date of birth: _____ Nationality: _____

Send to Major John Gutteridge, Army Officer Entry, Freemont 4235, Dept 2006, Bristol BS1 1NY

Army Officer

The Armed Forces of the United Kingdom are recruiting for the Army, Royal Air Force and Royal Navy. For more information, please contact the appropriate recruiting office.



Young warrior: A teenager, bearing a dustbin-like shield, brandishes his homemade spear yesterday among a band of men roaming Soweto, near Johannesburg

Nyerere hands over power and praises one-party rule

From AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN DAR ES SALAAM

JULIUS Nyerere, Tanzania's founding father and champion of homestead socialism, has stepped down as leader of the country's sole political party in a peaceful transition of a kind rarely seen in Africa.

Dr Nyerere has passed on the mantle to his hand-picked successor Ali Hassan Mwinyi, who took over as Tanzania's president from Dr Nyerere five years ago. Mr Mwinyi was expected to be elected chairman of the Chama cha Mapinduzi party at a congress here yesterday.

Dr Nyerere, aged 68, who led Tanzania to independence and ruled for 24 years, strongly defended the one-party state in a keynote address to the opening session of the congress on Thursday. He said: "We should not feel ashamed to defend our democracy because it was one-party democracy that has earned us a homogeneous

society founded on a strong national unity."

A former schoolmaster who still likes to be called *mwalmizi*, or teacher, Dr Nyerere argues that without his *ujamaa* brand of African village socialism, Tanzania would not have achieved stability. But the ideals of small-scale communalism he symbolised have been undermined by his failure to build a prosperous Tanzania. The country is still suffering from poverty despite being one of the biggest recipients of Western aid in the past three decades.

Mr Mwinyi has moved steadily towards a market economy, and his limited success in putting some consumer goods back on the once bare shelves of Tanzania's shops has made him popular. But his leadership has been overshadowed by Dr Nyerere, who has continued to be seen

as the power behind the throne.

Dr Nyerere has criticized Mr Mwinyi's moves as unplanned retreats from socialism, though in his farewell speech he admitted that some mistakes made under his presidency were now being corrected by Mr Mwinyi.

Dr Nyerere remains unbending, his ideology intact. Tanzania, he says, should be judged not by the one-sided standards of economic performance applied by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, but by its progress in education and health. Tanzania has one of the highest literacy rates in Africa and its infant mortality rate has fallen dramatically.

He dismisses any suggestion that Tanzania has brought its economic ills on itself, arguing that African countries are penalized by artificially low prices for commodities such as coffee.

He is impatient with Western demands for democracy. He urged the party, under its new leadership, to resist such pressure without shame. He said that multiparty democracy was alien to Africa and so bound to fail.

Dr Nyerere has remained remarkably free from any taint of corruption in a continent whose rulers are renowned for their fat Swiss bank accounts and luxurious lifestyles. A devout Catholic, he has remained a humble if somewhat self-righteous idealist who is more of a reformist than a revolutionary.

Refugees rescued from Monrovia

From REUTERS IN FREETOWN

AMERICAN military helicopters ferried about 360 refugees, mostly Indians, fleeing the fighting in Liberia to the neighbouring West African state of Sierra Leone yesterday. A total of 345 Indians, mostly businessmen and their families, and a handful of Sri Lankans and other nationals were airlifted from the American embassy compound in Monrovia on Thursday to four US warships offshore.

One ship, the USS Ponce, sailed north overnight, anchored off Freetown in Sierra Leone and began taking the refugees to a heliport in the resort suburb of Aberdeen. American officials said the airlift would continue over the weekend to evacuate about 400 Lebanese nationals from Monrovia to Freetown.

G. S. Gill, India's honorary consul in Liberia, who accompanied the refugees, said they learnt only on Wednesday that they would be brought out of Monrovia. "People were extremely happy."

Mr Gill said Monrovia, where two rival rebel factions are fighting the army of President Doe for control of the capital, was extremely tense. He said the mainstream rebel movement of Charles Taylor was attacking President Doe's forces in the east near the Springs Payne airfield. It had also opened a front against the breakaway rebel movement of Prince Johnson in northern Monrovia. Mr Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia was fighting Mr Johnson's forces at Duala, about

five miles from the port, under Mr Johnson's control.

Mr Gill said 52 Indians who had sought evacuation were still trapped by fighting in the eastern suburbs. One Indian businessman was shot dead by Mr Johnson's fighters on August 7, he said.

One of the Indians, Rajan Dhalimal, who owns factories in Liberia producing furniture and car batteries, said he was trapped in his house in a no-man's land between the forces of President Doe and Mr Johnson for two weeks.

He said discipline was growing weaker in Mr Johnson's ranks. "They were all right. But now they are getting a bit hostile, wanting money and taking things from people," he said.

A West African peacekeeping force is waiting in Freetown for orders to move into Liberia to halt fighting in the eight-month-old civil war. General Arnold Quainoo, its Ghanaian commander, was expected back from Gambia yesterday. He went to Banjul in The Gambia on Wednesday for talks with President Sir Dawda Jawara, chairman of the Economic Community of West African States under whose auspices the six-nation force has been formed.

African diplomats said that General Quainoo also had hoped to meet Mr Taylor in The Gambia to gain his agreement for the force's deployment. But Mr Taylor, who has consistently opposed foreign intervention in the conflict, failed to arrive.

Pakistan right longs for return to Zia era

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN ISLAMABAD

PAKISTAN'S right-wing parties rallied tens of thousands of people yesterday to commemorate the second anniversary of the death of General Zia, the military dictator, whose legacy is keenly felt as the country struggles to save its threatened democracy.

At precisely 3.51 pm, the time when Zia's plane mysteriously crashed, prayers echoed across the Murree Hills of Islamabad from loudspeakers erected over a vast area around Faisal mosque. Zia's son, Jaz ul-Haq, aged 38, who has just entered politics and will run for the national assembly in the next election, rode through the crowds on a lorry, waving royally to thousands of cheering.

But the turnout was smaller than last year's commemoration, suggesting that memories of the former leader are not as affectionate now that military rule has come perilously close again. However, thousands of posters of Zia have appeared along the main boulevards here, some declaring: "God, give us another Zia."

The biggest attraction of the Zia era, judging by the comments of Pakistanis who turned out yesterday, is that he provided stability and order. An orderly dictatorship, many said, was preferable to chaotic democracy.

The change in the political tide has brought a re-adjustment in the opinion pages of the government-run *Pakistan Times*, which a fortnight ago was firmly on the side of Benazir Bhutto, the dismissed prime minister. Yesterday's leading article sounded a new tune, reflecting the importance of the army in the interim government. With Zia's death, it said, "the country lost a great nationalist, a true patriot and a devoted servant of Islam. His period of martial law was as benign as any democracy." It urged the caretaker government to resolve the mystery of the air crash.

The threatened return of "Ziaism" is being blamed by India for new tensions with Pakistan over Kashmir. The removal of the Bhutto government has led to a hardening of policy, with senior officers arguing that the Pakistan military cannot be seen to disengage from the Kashmir border under the threat of intimidation by India's huge military presence there.

India has said it is prepared to withdraw some troops if Islamabad announces its opposition to the campaign of violence in the Kashmir valley. Such a statement would be politically damaging to any Pakistani government, and the interim administration is unlikely to comply. India has also privately proposed that Pakistan stop publicly "inciting violence and communal passions" and that it hands over Kashmiri militants sheltering in Pakistan.

DEHLY: Indian border guards shot dead 12 Muslim separatists after they crossed over from neighbouring Pakistan into Kashmir, Indian news agencies said yesterday. United News and Press Trust of India said the separatists died in a clash with the guards at Kupwara border area on Thursday. They said border guards challenged 13 "Pakistan-trained militants" when they crossed the frontier.

"When the forces returned the fire, 12 militants were killed on the spot," United News of India said. One separatist was arrested. (AP)

Shuttle mission to repair Hubble telescope

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

THE Hubble space telescope, a \$1.5 billion (£800 million) embarrassment to Nasa, the US space agency, because it is unable to produce crisp images of stars, can be put right by replacing its camera in space.

After two days of hearings at Hughes Danbury Optical Systems, which took over the company last year that made the faulty mirrors, Nasa officials on the investigative board said that a space shuttle mission, scheduled for mid-1993 would be able to replace the wide-field planetary camera on the telescope with a new one designed to correct the errors.

"The Hubble could actually be better than it could be now," said Charles Pellerin, director of astrophysics for Nasa. The camera was going to be replaced because of the wear and tear suffered by equipment in space. The replacement camera, which is being made, will be manufactured with an inbuilt error of its own which will cancel out the error in the mirror.

A misplaced washer in the null corrector, an instrument used for checking the shape of the Hubble's primary mirror during grinding, is being investigated as one possible cause of the expensive mistake. The error, huge by the standards of astronomical instruments, is consistent with one mirror in the null corrector being displaced by 1.3 millimetres, exactly the same thickness as the washer.

A second null corrector used to test the mirror did show up the error, but it was a less precise instrument and its results were ignored. The manufacturers, Perkin-Elmer (taken over by Hughes Danbury), did not tell Nasa about the results and placed their faith in the more precise instrument that suggested all was well. As a result they made a mirror that is the wrong shape. This is why Nasa officials hope that a simple modification to the camera will correct the error, at least for the Hubble's principal system, the wide-field camera.

A similar mistake was made in the construction of the European Southern Observatory's latest telescope, installed last year high in the Chilean Andes. A serious fault in the shape of the primary mirror was traced back to the faulty placing of a lens in the null corrector used to polish the mirror at the Carl Zeiss works in West Germany. But the error could be corrected by slightly altering the shape of the mirror using the series of supports upon which it rests. The same cannot be done for the Hubble without the risk of destroying its symmetry.

Nasa's plans will not correct the faint-object camera, built by the European Space Agency (ESA), whose performance is also reduced by the faults in the primary mirror. One of the camera's missions, looking for planets around stars, cannot be carried out. A new faint-object camera would cost ESA about \$100 million, which it cannot afford.

"ESA built a beautiful instrument which is now compromised through no fault of its own," Dr Michael Penston of the Institute of Astronomy in Cambridge said yesterday. He believes the best chance of putting it right is to design a lens or mirror which could be taken up by the shuttle, perhaps during the 1993 mission, and placed in front of the camera to correct the errors.

FREETOWN NOTEBOOK by Philip Jacobson

Flying in for an African study in Greene

A month ago, the only helicopter to be found in Sierra Leone was an ancient machine which had crashed once too often and was abandoned by the roadside. But the civil war in neighbouring Liberia has brought Freetown's regular spectacle of bulky green US Sea Stallions clattering over the bay, carrying refugees from that savage conflict to a landing pad near the beach.

An enthralled crowd always gathers to watch the helicopters arrive, forgetting to turn away as the rotor blades envelop spectators in a cloud of dust. As a rainy-season attraction, it takes some beating, especially when the crewmen scamper around securing the machines: firm favourite of the locals is a squat loadmaster, surely the US Navy's smallest sailor on the ocean wave, who has a nice sense of occasion and has been known to ham it up for the cameras.

The antics of the foreign journalists here to report on the formation of a West African peacekeeping force have also provided entertainment as we struggle to overcome the sapping climate, testing communications and the laidback pace of life. A woman from Spanish

television displayed spectacular Latin ire when the line went down for the umpteenth time the other day to a particularly appreciative audience. For a moment, they seemed inclined to applaud, but good manners prevailed.



The search for something more rewarding than the latest nuisance on the peacekeeping front eventually brings most of us to the City hotel and the Graham Greene connection. The writer had

stayed in what was then the smartest place in town during his intelligence service in the second world war and subsequently included a fond recollection in *The Heart of the Matter* in and around the Freetown that is still recognisable today.

The mangy descendants of the dog that is gnawing at something unpleasant when the story opened still roam the decaying neighbourhood around the city, and the elderly son of the proprietor whom Greene wrote into the novel still presides over the dank and peeling premises. A shrivelled man with skin as pale as parchment, he was sipping a glass of Guinness and milk when we arrived, to his evident displeasure. "No room, no tourists," he whispered, ignoring our questions about Greene and Stobie, the book's central figure, a cynical customs officer consumed with self-disgust and gradually wearying of life.

As we left, a pleasant young black man asked why visitors would occasionally come to look over the hotel, sometimes with paperback in hand. He had never heard of Graham Greene and clearly found it hard to believe that the crumbling colonial building behind him had acquired international literary fame.

Driving away, we were suddenly immersed by youngsters, chanting, swaying and standing as they escorted their local football team to an important cup match. Even by African standards, Sierra Leone is soccer-crazy. The national squad is not quite a power on the continent, but fans cheerfully adopted the Camerons as heroes because of their World Cup exploits.

The knowledge of British teams is most impressive, though it took some time to understand why the fortunes of lowly Blackpool could excite such interest. The sports pages provided the answer: a team called Mighty Blackpool is near the top of the local league. A long-forgotten engineer from Lancashire formed his own team here and gave it the name of his favourite club.

Alas, Sierra Leone is no stranger to football hooliganism. The independent weekly *Progress* recently published a list of clubs punished for transgression, included in which was the "unruly conduct of Mighty Blackpool supporters towards a referee after their match against 'Kambui Eagles' in another game, 'all hell broke loose' after some debateable officiating, and the referee was lucky to escape."

Transylvania threatened by spectre of ethnic hatred

From TIM JUDAH IN MIERCUREA-CIUC

THOUSANDS of Romanians are being forced to flee their homes in Transylvania, according to local politicians.

Ioan Oancea, a member of parliament for the ruling National Salvation Front, says that his constituents have been threatened by activists from the local ethnic Hungarian majority and that others are losing their jobs because of new discriminatory work practices designed to rid the area of Romanians. These allegations are being firmly rejected by local Hungarian politicians.

The population of the Transylvanian county of Harghita is more than 80 per cent Hungarian. In the May elections, the area returned only one non-Hungarian, Mr Oancea, out of a total of eight MPs and senators. He says that Romanians are now a "threatened minority" in Harghita and also in Covasna, the neighbouring county.

None of the ordinary Romanians interviewed wanted their names to be published.

One pensioner said: "I have been here for 36 years. Under the dictatorship, Romanians and Hungarians in Harghita were like brothers. After the revolution, this so-called democracy made us enemies. The first thing they did after the fall of Ceausescu was to fly the Hungarian flag right here in the middle of Miercurea-Ciuc, the capital of Harghita."

An old woman said: "It's becoming hard to live here. The Hungarians are chauvinists and nationalists, and their extremists follow orders from Budapest. Our people are being chased away."

A dejected Romanian Orthodox priest said: "The archbishop of Harghita was threatened and left. Other priests have also gone under similar circumstances. Some of them were threatened because they were involved with the nationalist organisation, Vatra Romanasca."

Many educated and professional Romanians are leaving Harghita. Of 740 Romanian teachers, 330 have already left. The reorganisation of most local factories means that many Romanian managers have lost their jobs.

Hungarians say that what is happening in education and industry is only the natural redressing of the balance, since before the revolution Romanians were given all the best jobs. Benedek Nagy, an MP of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania, said: "Ceausescu's policy of 'homogenisation' in the country meant sending Romanian teachers here and Hungarian teachers elsewhere. Now that our Hungarian schools are coming back we simply don't need a lot of teachers who can't speak our language. Besides, most of them are happy to go home."

One language teacher from Bucharest said she had wanted to stay in Harghita, but had been told that if she did not resign she would be sacked "sooner or later". She could not speak Hungarian, the language of the majority of her pupils, but this was "not a disadvantage". She added: "In the past few months, the Hungarians began to treat me and other Romanian teachers like plague carriers."

Stories of threats and job discrimination are rejected by Mr Nagy. He said that he would intervene if he ever heard that it was going on. He claimed that local Romanians were influenced and frightened by the extremist Vatra Romanasca, widely considered a "neo-fascist" organisation. Mr Oancea is a member of this group.

Mr Nagy said: "Vatra specialises in dividing people and in creating diversions." He suggested that the organisation might have been behind an attack on a local police station in June, ostensibly by a mob infuriated by a bilingual "police" sign which had replaced one in Romanian only.

Stefan Danciu is the local president of Vatra Romanasca. He said: "The reason Hungarians get so excited about our organisation is simple. We've thwarted their plans for the autonomy of Transylvania and, worse, their idea of reincorporating it back into Hungary." He claimed local Hungarians had imported weapons so that "they can create incidents to focus the world's attention on Transylvania". He said he had no evidence to support this claim but had heard it from "senior military officers".

Mr Nagy said the fears that Hungary wanted to recover Transylvania were absurd. Talking about Hungarian fears he said: "Since the inter-ethnic violence in Tigris Mures last March many of our young and educated people are leaving Harghita and the whole of Transylvania."



Karyn Smith, aged 19, second from right, being transferred to a detention centre in Bangkok yesterday after a court appearance. She and another British girl, Patricia Cahill, aged 17, face heroin smuggling charges

EC to discuss oil aid for Eastern bloc

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

AN URGENT rescue package is being considered by the European Commission to help East European countries facing economic catastrophe as a result of the boycott of Iraqi oil supplies.

Most East European nations, already badly hit by higher hard-currency prices for Soviet oil, will have to spend billions

of dollars more on alternative supplies. A Nato economic committee estimated this week that Bulgaria, one of the worst-hit countries, will have to spend the equivalent of its entire export earnings to buy oil on the open market next year.

The Gulf confrontation particularly affects Eastern Europe because its struggling economies depended heavily on barter trade with Iraq. Most countries have run up huge credit surpluses with

Baghdad and were being repaid by deliveries of Iraqi oil, a vital alternative to the dwindling Soviet supplies.

The sudden halt in shipments may force their economies into bankruptcy and is likely to set back the introduction of free-market reforms. This would be a blow to the EC's efforts to encourage economic and political change. The commission is scheduled to meet on Tuesday.

Spanish bombs injure 20

Madrid — A car bomb wrecked a Spanish police station in the northern city of Burgos, injuring 20 people, and a smaller device cut a rail line near the central city of Avila (Harry Debelius writes). Basque extremists were suspected in both cases.

Only two police officers were in the station at the time.

Ransom call

Rashayah, Lebanon — Gunmen kidnapped a Lebanese teenager in Israel's self-declared security zone in south Lebanon and demanded a \$2 million (£1.1 million) ransom, security sources said. (Reuters)

Accident award

Sydney — An Australian woman who became a quadriplegic after she smashed her spine trying to avoid a surfer in a no-surfing zone off Bondi Beach seven years ago was awarded £1.6 million compensation by the supreme court here. (Reuters)

Court reprieve

Seoul — The Seoul high court acquitted Kang Min Chang, a former head of the South Korean police, of an attempt to conceal the 1987 death by torture of a student. Three other senior officers were acquitted. (Reuters)

Hole sale stock

Hong Kong — Vietnamese boat people in a tented camp here have been tunnelling out to buy alcohol and food for resale inside, the camp commandant said. (Reuters)

Touch of grey

Copenhagen — A Danish police campaign against shoplifting here netted more pensioners than any other age group. Police caught 106 people over the age of 65, against 81 in the 15 to 25 age group. (Reuters)

Rush to join the legion

From AFP IN MARSEILLES

EAST Europeans have been flocking to join the French Foreign Legion since their borders opened, a senior officer said. "Hungarians, Poles, Czechoslovaks, Romanians and Bulgarians now make up a quarter of our recruits," Colonel Gerard de Lajudie, the legion's deputy commander, said. A year ago there were hardly any.

Each month more than 30 of the 120 men who enlist for five years come from Eastern Europe with the exception of Albania and East Germany. Four candidates on average apply for each acceptance.

Typically the East Europeans are in their early twenties, have served in the armed forces of their own impoverished countries, and have left in search of a better life in the West which has eluded them. For most of them, Colonel Lajudie said, the legion offered the last chance. "If they don't get in, they'll have to go home."

Entry tests are offered in the native languages of prospective recruits. If they pass they are sent to Castelnaudary in southern France to be taught French and undergo basic training. Afterwards they are incorporated into one of the legion's engineering or combat units.

Since its creation in 1831 the legion has swelled its ranks in times of trouble. In the 1920s, Russians fleeing communism signed up in droves. In the 1930s it was loyalist Spaniards who hoped, in vain, that the legion would fight Franco's insurrection. After the second world war Germans provided half the recruits. There was a brief influx of Hungarians in 1956.

About 80 per cent of all recruits give family or personal problems as their reason for joining. Under the legion's peculiar rules it must be able to check candidates' criminal records is excluded. Those suspected of crimes but not convicted are accepted. Escaped convicts are not.

If the recruit so chooses, the legion will give him a new name and protect his identity but, legally, during his stay in the legion, he becomes a non-person, denied the right to open a bank account, marry, or own property.

Moscow and Bonn hopeful on unity deal

By MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, and Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his West German counterpart, said in Moscow yesterday that they hoped a formal agreement on German reunification could be approved at the next "two plus four" meeting in the Soviet capital on September 12. The ministers said that some problems remained, but they were of practice rather than principle.

In East Berlin, however, the collapse of the government developed into open war yesterday with the Social Democrats, key members of the coalition, threatening to block a vital reunification treaty in revenge for the sacking of two of their ministers.

Wolfgang Thierse, the Social Democrat leader, pronouncing the coalition dead, said the party would vote against the treaty, on political and legal aspects of reunification, in its present form. "If the treaty is not significantly improved, we will have no choice but to turn it down," he said in a television interview.

The political developments in East Germany were apparently discounted in Moscow, however. Mr Shevardnadze said that once agreement on reunification was reached it would be signed by the West and East German leaders and then submitted to the united German parliament for ratification, at which point it would come into force.

Herr Genscher said that the transitional time between signing and ratification should be short, but that there still had to be agreement on the role of the four powers during the transitional period. He said it was likely that their mandate would expire at the

moment the agreement on reunification came into force. That would also mark the point at which a united Germany became a sovereign state. One possibility, he said, was that the authority of the four powers would be suspended, but not ended, during the transition.

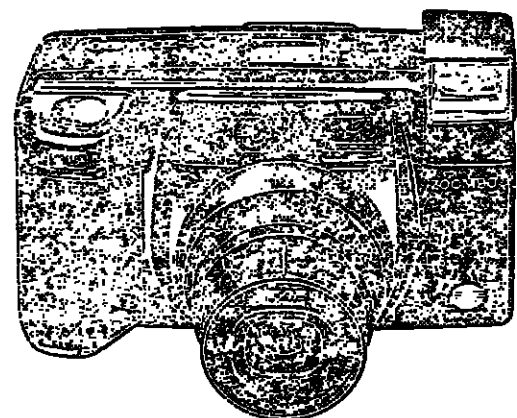
Mr Shevardnadze said that Moscow and West Germany were already discussing the form their relations should take after reunification. He said that the prospects were open "for a major political treaty" to govern their relations; for a treaty on economic, trade, scientific and technical and cultural relations; and for a third agreement which would specify the status and withdrawal timetable for Soviet troops stationed in East Germany.

Herr Genscher added that co-operation between a united Germany and Moscow was likely to amount to more than the sum of their component parts — the present co-operation between Moscow and East and West Germany.

The Social Democrats' parliamentary caucus is to meet in East Berlin tomorrow and looks set to accept the leadership's recommendation to leave the coalition.

Lothar de Maizière, the Christian Democrat prime minister, needs the Social Democrats to achieve the two-thirds parliamentary majority required to approve both the reunification treaty and East Berlin's accession to Bonn.

Herr de Maizière has now to hope that, despite the threats from Herr Thierse, the commitment of the Social Democrats to speedy reunification will push the motions through on time.



The Minolta AF-Zoom 90

No other compact camera will get you closer to your family...

No other compact can offer smooth power zooming from wide landscapes to close-ups (and everything in between). As well as getting really big close-ups with the optional 120mm zoom extender.

There's the marvel of Minolta Program Zoom too, which automatically sets the camera to give the ideal picture composition.

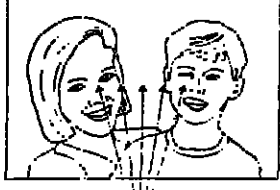
At the heart of the AF-Zoom 90 is the unique multi-beam autofocus system which sends out no less than 5 infra red beams (which is more than any other system) to pinpoint your subject even when it's off-centre, and give perfectly focused pictures.

Intelligent auto-exposure is integrated with autofocus and has multi-area metering to ensure your subject is always correctly exposed whatever the lighting conditions.

All this, plus advanced built-in flash, macro capability, automatic film control and more, adds up to a brilliant camera giving truly superb results simply at the touch of a button.

Get close to the Minolta AF-Zoom 90 at your Minolta dealer today.

Get closer to your family and buy it, for around £199.



Get really close with the optional 120mm zoom extender (around £39).



MINOLTA

France divided by battle for the bear necessities

From ALAN TILLIER IN PARIS

FRANCE wept over the bear in the popular film *L'Ours*, but real-life bears are having a more difficult time gaining unanimous public sympathy for their survival.

Just a dozen are left in the Pyrenees, compared with some seventy in 1957 and about two hundred before the second world war. In principle people want to preserve the bears, but in practice the construction of roads and ski resorts, and the French love of shooting, are more important.

The dispute is not just between local ecologists and hunters. The bears — one whitish brown one seems to come out regularly to be photographed — have touched the hearts of Paris intellectuals, who are now signing petitions. Even

President Mitterrand has declared: "We must unite to save the bear." This is just the latest effort to get something done. The Pyrenees national park, created in 1967 to safeguard the bear, continues to shrink.

The Pyrenean bear is smaller than those in Central Europe, which in turn are smaller than the American grizzly. Many have been shot for sport. Now the hunting clubs say they will spare the bears if they do not wander.

The Vallée d'Aspe, the area in the mountains where the remaining bears live, is staggeringly beautiful and largely unspoiled. But the bears face many dangers. Shepherds used to put down poison after the loss of sheep. Now they have been "bought

off" by private pro-bear foundations with the result that Pyrenean shepherds have radio telephones, considerable compensation for dead sheep, and supplies sent in by helicopter. "The fight to save the bear has brought the helicopter to the valleys," a member of the French Green party said with some irony.

Even the official forest commission says it will limit the number of tracks and roads only if the bears stay within a certain area. For the bears' sakes, it is hoped that they read the local press.

In this allotted area, carcasses of beef are being hung from trees to indicate that this is where the bears must stay. But bears will be bears, and they roam widely to find their beloved bilberries.

Rome's rigid patriarchy

Clifford Longley

The largest organisation in the world, the Roman Catholic Church, claims to have 890 million members, 18 per cent of the world population. It has a full-time manpower (and womanpower) of 1.7 million. It has one pope, 4,126 bishops, 402,000 priests, 893,000 nuns and 400,000 others. That is a lot of each kind (except popes). It is also a lot of power for good or evil.

The priests are the backbone of this extraordinary body. How they fare will determine the future of the whole. Much has been said and written in the last ten years about a crisis of identity and numbers in the Catholic priesthood, but the latest official statistics do not altogether confirm this impression. The number of priests dropped by 4 per cent during the decade, but ordinations increased every year. In Europe the vocations rate — the number of candidates for priestly training per million Catholics — rose from 85 to 105, equalling the rate in North America (where it dropped from 165). But North America still has the highest proportion of priests per head of Catholic population.

Despite these apparently healthy figures, a priestly identity crisis is officially admitted, and the Vatican has called a special conference of world Catholic leaders this autumn to address it. The concern is primarily with quality and function. In every country, it seems, there is some uncertainty about what a priest is for, and how he ought to go about doing what he is for. In Western Europe, this questioning has become acute. If the church is not careful, Catholicism in Europe will follow the pattern of Anglicanism in England, with 20 per cent church attendance dropping to 5 or 3 or 2 per cent. French Catholicism is already well on the way.

In an increasingly literate and educated world, a priest is likely to spend much of his time among his intellectual equals, many of whom will be fellow professionals. There is a characteristic movement in virtually all societies to recognise authority and grant respect only where it is earned by performance rather than status, which presents a particular difficulty for a priest. His identity still largely comes from what he is rather than what he does.

What he is will mean nothing much in increasingly urban and secular societies. As the world becomes more democratic, the idea of a divinely ordained hierarchy, of which a priest is a member, may seem inimical to the democratic ideal of equal rights and universal participation in the exercise of government. Even in the church itself responsibility is moving towards the laity, who are having to learn that they possess a certain kind of priesthood of their own — much to the puzzlement of those who thought they had a monopoly of it.

These accelerating trends are mystifying and demoralising to the older clergy, while the younger ones may embrace them too uncritically. Both reactions are likely to be distorting, and 400,000 misdirected personalities occupying leadership positions among 890 million people is bad news for almost everybody.

If the preparatory papers are any guide, this autumn's synod of bishops will set out to find the narrow middle way between these two destructive tendencies, neither embracing change unconditionally nor rejecting it out of hand, so achieving an idealised "identity" for the modern priesthood which avoids all the traps. But because the institution is so vast and disparate, Roman Catholicism tends to be suffocated by meaningless generalisations. Not much can usefully be said that applies equally to 400,000 people of some 150 nationalities aged between 25 and 90. Even less that can be said now will still be true in ten years.

Despite all the complaints about overcentralisation in this enormous church, the Vatican is fighting a rearguard action to retain control. There is no databank in the Vatican with 400,000 names on it, let alone the 1.7 million total. The staff of the Roman curia, the church civil service, can just about keep half an eye on the 4,000 bishops.

So order is kept in the church not by the universal regulations, locally enforced, that apply to every priest. These are the rules which make the priestly body a disciplined body; they impose on the priesthood its shape and pattern. They create stability and cohesion. They also inhibit adaptation as conditions change, and this leads inevitably to an identity crisis when the failure to adapt passes a critical point.

This crisis will be greatest in those societies that have changed the most, for it is there that the model of the priesthood established by these rules is most out of place. Canon law is static, and even the latest version describes the priesthood as it was ideally imagined to be 30 years ago. It is based on the picturebook rural dream of the priest as father of his flock, but such a patriarchal ideal is no longer appropriate.

The church needs more flexibility, to allow experimental patterns of ministry to emerge: worker priests, part-time priests, married priests, even female priests if the theologians can agree. What canon law imposes, above all, is the rigid idea of the priesthood, a caste or class embodied in the notion of a clergyman. This is at the root of the identity crisis of the Catholic priesthood. Yet it need not be so; nowhere in the Bible is it laid down that priests have to be full-time, celibate, professional men.

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

As we all know, some things just don't work. The Advanced Passenger Train didn't; the Sinclair C5 didn't; and there are as many cures for baldness as there are disappointed dopes. But these failures rapidly become history. People get wise, and the product is withdrawn.

More intriguing are the failures we carry on with. Bravely, Alan Coren has raised the issue of automated bath-plugs: systems of chrome levers integrated into de luxe bathroom suites. At the yank of the handle they are supposed to cause steel plugs to rise or fall mysteriously in bathtubs and basins. They don't really work; but still we install them because the idea has got about that a rubber plug is somehow "common".

"They don't really work." Of how many familiar devices, part of everyday life, can this despairing cry be heard? Supermarket trolleys with minds of their own, which drag you, panic-stricken and wrestling with the controls, on a collision course with the pile of Israeli melons on special offer... how can we send men to the moon yet fail to find a way of push-steeering a trolley?

Modern shoelaces, no longer made of cotton, which no longer stay tied up... how many small curves rise heavenward daily from people trying to re-tie that knot from a squatting posture on a busy pavement?

Canteen-issue plastic tea-stirring wands which don't stir, UHT milk which squirts up your shirt as you puncture the foil top of the plastic mini-bulb, cream-cracker packs wrapped in mega-strength cellophane which cannot be opened without reducing the biscuits to rubble... Aargh!

And why do crayons always break? Millions grow up with feelings of personal inadequacy, unaware that other kids couldn't handle these things either. Why do the devices provided to hold up the toilet seat as the train sways always drop the seat at precisely the awful moment? Why do BR's revolting rubber foot-operated basin-tap switches cause the flow to dry to a trickle just as you've soaped your hands? Why do those time-delayed hand-push taps force you to

soap your left hand individually, while your right hand holds the thing down? In desperation, your soaped hand strays to the handle and the handle then pollutes your rinsed hand. Then the hot-air hand-dryer doesn't work, and you wipe your unrised hand on your trousers and run screaming from the loo.

If a sum total were to be made of all the human misery arising from all the failed, arm-wrenched, finger-mashed attempts to start portable engines with pull-cords, I believe it would exceed the misery caused by the Spanish Inquisition. Let's face it: the two-stroke internal combustion was a good idea; but it doesn't really work.

And, in this mood of engineering humility, could we have an amnesty on moving travellers? They usually don't. And electric shavers? They sort of do, but only sort of. And pop-up toasters? Down through the ages of the pop-up toaster, what is the ratio of toast satisfactorily toasted to toast charred beyond recognition? And is there anyone at all who has actually succeeded in getting a bar of chocolate from a station platform chocolate dispenser?

Isn't it time, too, that somebody admitted that in-flight music headphones don't really work unless you cup your hands to your ears and apply constant pressure? Is it too late to come to terms with the failure of perforations on sheets of stamps to tear with an acceptable fatality rate? Who has not ripped a cheque from a chequebook with a flourish, only to have our bravado backfire?

It is time to march. The ranks of those permanently disabled from an encounter with a mouse-trap-sprung letter-box, swelled by millions who have tangled their last with coiled cables attaching handsets to telephones, and joined, now, by every wretched soul who has snagged the bathplug-chain, abandoned hope of getting the curtains open with the pulley-operated curtain-pull, and finally spilled the milk all down from a Tetra-pack carton opened in rage by Caesarian section... All join me in one despairing cry: "It doesn't really work!"

Rosemary Righter says the UN has the power to enforce sanctions and should shut up shop if it fails

When saying boo is not enough

Since it moved with uncharacteristic speed to condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and to impose legally binding sanctions, the United Nations has appeared becalmed. Seemingly oblivious to the rising demands for UN action, the secretary-general has left New York on a long-planned tour of Latin America, while the Security Council has not met formally for nine days. There are two interpretations of the UN's silence.

The first is that for the time being the UN has done all that is needed. The Security Council has called on Iraq to withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally, and has imposed sanctions prohibiting trade with the aggressor. These are for individual states to observe, and the international community's job is simply to monitor their compliance. To move to a UN blockade would inflame the situation unnecessarily.

The second is that the US and Britain have literally jumped the gun by deciding to use naval force if necessary to ensure compliance with the UN's resolution. Where there was unity, they have created division, so reducing the chances of UN endorsement of military action. The UN, according to this view, is silent because it can

no longer speak with one voice. Neither explanation is satisfactory. Resolution 661, passed on August 6, cannot be fully effective unless backed by military force. If it is working so far, this is because the US and Britain have acted. To pretend otherwise is hypocrisy. Most members of the Security Council are privately grateful to the Anglo-American initiative for letting them off the hook.

After agreeing to impose sanctions, the five permanent members ought to have begun work on winning UN approval for military enforcement, but so far not one of them has even put forward a draft resolution.

The American and British contention that Security Council action is not needed may be legally defensible, but it is politically inadequate. Neither can allow suspicion to mount, particularly in the Arab world, that they wish to preserve their freedom to act unilaterally. The British and American decisions to use a Kuwaiti request for help as their basis for naval action would not have been necessary had the UN acted with due dispatch.

London and Washington probably think that the Security Council would take too long to decide, and would authorise only feeble

action; and they have history on their side. Yet none of the familiar arguments against decisive UN action apply. The conflict has no domestic dimension; Kuwait is an undeniably peace-loving state, and the cold war is over. If the UN is not at the forefront of efforts to force Saddam's retreat, the Security Council may as well shut up shop. Speed is of the essence.

The surest indication that Saddam at least now believes the UN to be marginal is his refusal even to allow a United Nations emissary to visit Baghdad to discuss the illegal detention of foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait. An informal Security Council session on this question was convened yesterday at Britain's request, but diplomats now admit that the UN is powerless to do more than express its outrage.

Blame has been misdirected. Instead of uttering from the distance of Peru his veiled expressions of disapproval of American and British action, the secretary-general should return to New York to throw his authority behind multilateral enforcement.

To organise action under Article 42, which authorises military operations by members of the UN, could be awkward and time-consuming. This article has never

been used, and even now unanimity might be difficult to obtain — if only because the idea of the UN making war on war has not been seriously contemplated since 1950, over Korea. A formal blockade under Article 42 would be cumbersome to put in place, but there is a better solution. The UN could follow the precedent of the action to enforce sanctions against Rhodesia, when the British Beira patrol operated as an independent force with Security Council blessing.

The UN need only decide that to be fully effective Resolution 661 requires military backing. It can request governments with naval vessels in the area, or ready to supply them, to intercept and turn back sanctions-busting shipping. The only question then would be the secondary one of how to co-ordinate the operations of navies under national control. The ideal would be an informal co-ordinating mechanism, linked to the UN itself and keeping the Security Council informed.

Three of the five permanent members — the US, Britain and the Soviet Union — have put forward proposals for reactivating the Military Staff Committee (MSC). Created under the Charter, this was intended to be the

operational hub of Roosevelt's design for global policing. Composed of the chiefs of staff of the "big five", the committee was to command forces put at the UN's disposal, inviting other countries to participate where relevant. Since 1948, the MSC has been moribund, but like much else at the UN that has no function, it has gone on meeting regularly, albeit at junior level. So in embryo at least there is a ready-made command centre. Nor does resort to the MSC require forces to be placed under UN flags and command, to which the Americans would be likely to object.

These negotiations are proceeding at a ridiculously gentlemanly pace. The big five should put them into top gear. Instead of peering reluctantly at Article 42, they should draw up an "enabling" resolution under Article 41. The secretary-general has power to summon the five to ask for such action, but since Dag Hammarskjöld's day, UN secretaries-general have shunned this power. If the UN persists in the fiction that it is no more than the sum of its member states, the world may be plunged into full-scale combat, and the UN's pretensions to collective security will slide into deserved oblivion.

Socialist who thought the party could justify any means

Half a century after Leon Trotsky's death, Stephen Jones finds little in his record to suggest that he would have been less autocratic than Stalin

Fifty years ago, on August 20, 1940, an agent of the Soviet secret police named Ramon Mercader smashed the skull of Leon Trotsky with an ice-axe. Stalin had finally vanquished the man who could well have succeeded Lenin in 1924, and — according to many on the left today — could then have led the world's first proletarian state to a non-totalitarian and genuinely socialist conclusion.

Is there any basis for this view, and would a Trotskyist state have avoided the current economic and political bankruptcy of socialism? Historians may justifiably argue that such questions are anachronistic, pointless, and impossible. Who can possibly know how Trotsky would have reacted had he been in power rather than in the more intellectually comfortable position of revolutionary opposition? Yet we can ponder Trotsky's record.

Trotsky was many things to many people. Churchill described him as having "the organising command of a Carnot, the cold detached intelligence of a Machiavelli, the mob oratory of a Cleon, the ferocity of Jack the Ripper, the toughness of Titus Oates". His supporters, such as Max Eastman, referred to him as "magnanimous", "childlike charm" and "self-discipline". Most of his fellow Bolsheviks saw him either as a potential Bonaparte or as an impractical Utopian, tilting at revolutionary windmills long after the social revolution was exhausted. Lenin, in one of his last writings, characterised Trotsky as a man of "outstanding ability", but warned of his "excessive self-assurance" and preoccupation with "the purely administrative side of work".

Trotsky's actions as the Bolshevik commissar of war, and his writings throughout his career,

show a consistent and dogmatic belief in class dictatorship, to be achieved and maintained, if necessary, through "the barrel of a gun". Like Stalin, he accepted that a revolutionary class would "suppress, rifle in hand, all attempts to tear power out of its hands". Democracy, civil rights, freedom of the press, equality before the law, the "sacredness of human life" — all these were subservient to the defence of the revolution.

While in power Trotsky fought the autonomy of trade unions, advocated compulsory labour service, supported the suppression of former socialist allies such as the Mensheviks, condemned oppositional activity within the party, and supervised the brutal crushing in March 1921 of the former heroes of the revolution, the sailors of Kronstadt, who were demanding an end to the emerging communist police state. Like Stalin, he shared the belief in the political supremacy of the Communist party. "One cannot be right against the party," he declared in 1924, "for history has not created other ways for the realisation of what is right." The suggestion that Trotsky took such authoritarian positions because of Soviet weakness during the civil war is unconvincing.

It is unconvincing because he never questioned the correctness of Bolshevik omnipotence under Lenin or the dictatorship of the proletariat as a superior principle to democracy based on the rule of law. Morality could not be considered separately from the interests of the revolution and the laws of history, and any means that contributed to the unity of the revolutionary proletariat were obligatory for all revolutionaries.

So despite his attacks on the Soviet Union as a Stalinist deformation, he believed that as a



workers' state it had to be defended unconditionally against imperialist attack. Like Stalin, Trotsky saw no essential difference between social democrats and capitalists, or between Western imperialism and fascism: all were enemies of socialism. There was no principled basis for differentiating between them, only tactical considerations. Nor was Trotsky averse to the export of revolution by Soviet arms, and it is likely that had he lived, he would have been forced by his own revolutionary logic to support the expropriation of the bourgeoisie in Eastern Europe by Soviet power.

Domestically, too, Trotsky may have disagreed with Stalin's methods of class war in the countryside, his oppression of the nationalities, and his ruthless attack on workers' living standards to achieve industrialisation, but he never doubted the correctness of the repression of the kulaks (rich peasants) or of "nationalists" seeking independence from the Soviet Union. He saw central planning and central direction of the economy as an essential principle of socialism. In short, he shared many of the ideological premises that motivated Stalin. When in power, he had shown he could be ruthless with class ene-

mies and dismissive of individual rights against the socialist state. Despite his later protestations, democracy would never have been safe in Trotsky's hands.

All this, of course, does not make Trotsky a Stalinist. There was a vast difference between the two men. Trotsky was a committed internationalist, the proponent of "permanent revolution", not a Russian nationalist content like Stalin with "socialism in one country". He was a natural polemicist with broad intellectual tastes who could not have abided the enforced conformity of Stalinist cultural and political life.

His single-minded commitment to the party — though dangerous — would probably not have permitted the purges that swept millions of workers and poor peasants, as well as intellectuals, into the gulag. And probably — although we only have Trotsky's word on this — he would not have used such brutal methods to collectivise the land and smash the working class.

In common with Stalin, Trotsky had the Marxist faith in a centralised planned economy. Trotsky would have had no compunction about introducing censorship, repressing opposition, banning strikes, exploiting the peasants and workers (for their ultimate good) and dealing with imperialist powers to promote Soviet interests. He may have permitted greater democracy, but not as an inalienable right. There were no such things for Trotsky.

To some extent, then, we are talking of differences of scale. Had Trotsky succeeded Lenin in 1924 as head of the Soviet government and survived, we would probably not be reading now about the discovery of mass graves of Soviet citizens murdered in the 1930s. Yet Trotsky's vision was authoritarian: a socialist labour state run by a vanguard Communist party. Such a state would probably have left an economic and political legacy similar to that faced by Gorbachev.

The author is Assistant Professor of Russian Studies, Mount Holyoke College, Massachusetts.

Treasures for Babylon?

A political and military events in Kuwait unfold, the art world awaits news of the fate of an unmatched collection of Islamic treasures. Assembled by members of the Kuwaiti royal family, it is housed in a new museum on the seafloor of Kuwait City. The collection, which includes jewel-encrusted Mogul daggers, rare antique carpets and manuscripts, is estimated to be worth £5 billion.

The museum is a total Aladdin's cave," says London dealer Roy Miles, whose Bruton Street gallery has dealt extensively with the Kuwaitis. "It's the finest collection of Islamic art in the world." Unconfirmed reports have reached Christie's that the museum, which was opened in 1983, has suffered bomb damage. But even if it has escaped unscathed, there are fears that Saddam Hussein's soldiers may have plundered the contents. Art experts fear the only possible protection for the collection may lie in Saddam's professed reverence for Islamic culture. Mr Miles is pessimistic. "I think Saddam will present the daggers and jewels as gifts to his generals. If such things disappear, they will never be found again."

Patricia, Countess Jellicoe, a leading British devotee of Islamic art, is concerned about what could happen to the collection. But she believes some treasures were safely outside Kuwait when Iraq invaded. Some of the 20,000 items in the collection were on loan to the Hermitage in Leningrad. They

were due to go on show subsequently in the United States, Canada and France. Others, including some unique Mogul jewels, are believed to be in the county museum in Los Angeles.

"It is very good fortune," says the countess. "At least some of the best pieces will be safe." But the rest could be destined for Saddam's new palace in Babylon.

Before the flood

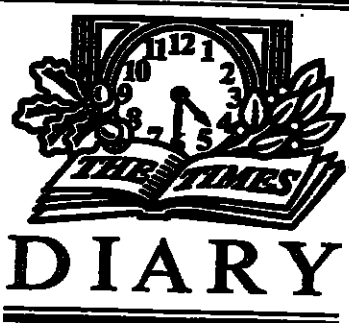
As British Equity rejoices in the decision of its American counterpart to lift the ban on Jonathan Pryce's Broadway appearance in *Miss Saigon*, it emerges that the union has been faced with a similar dilemma over a foreign actor.

The actors' union has been asked by Upstart Productions to

Help me fight the powers of lightness



allow a black American to play God in a new West End musical, *The Children of Eden*. "Originally we wanted God to be black, though not necessarily American," says the show's casting director Jane Blackburn. Written



DIARY

and directed by John Caird, an associate director of the Royal Shakespeare Company, the musical is based on the Book of Genesis and follows the story of the creation, Cain and Abel and the flood.

Rehearsals begin next month in preparation for a January opening. But auditions within Equity's membership failed to produce a suitable candidate. "We are now hoping the part will be played by Ken Page, the American musical performer," says Blackburn. Equity's black and Asian committee is looking at the application. And who on the committee is in charge of this inquiry? One Albert Moses.

Lounge wizard

Spare a thought for Iranian-born Alfred Merhan. For two years he has been living in the departure lounge of Charles de Gaulle airport, Paris. He says he is entitled to British citizenship because his mother was Scottish. He exists on food handouts and pocket money from sympathetic airline staff as he sits forlornly at departure gate six awaiting the outcome of his case. Describing himself as a postgraduate re-

searcher, he arrived at the airport claiming to have lost his documents after he failed to enter Britain clandestinely.

If his lawyer tries to phone him, an announcement over the public address system tips him off, and airport authorities have given him his own postbox. Psychiatrist Philippe Bargain, head of the airport emergency unit, says: "Airports attract mad people. We get about 100 of these 'pathological voyagers' with no papers every year." But there is no evidence that this voyager is mad. "Why should he leave an environment where he is stabilised?" asks Dr Bargain. Why indeed?

Clothes conscious

While the BBC's deputy director-general John Birt has not personally dispatched a chemical warfare suit to Kate Adie in the Gulf, the corporation confirms that measures are in hand to protect her. "Kate is in Jordan and not in any immediate danger," says a spokesman at White City, BBC's television headquarters, "but we are making arrangements to get some suits for Kate and other members of staff."

At ITN, similar arrangements have been put in train to protect Sandy Gall in the event of poison gas attack. The veteran foreign correspondent and *News at Ten* presenter is reporting from Amman. "We do have chemical warfare outfits out there," says ITN.

Sandy's wife Eleanor is staying calm. "As Amman is not exactly a war zone, I am not particularly concerned."

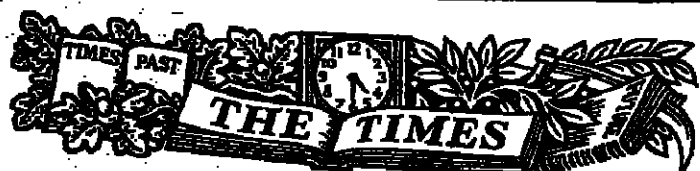
Rough waters

Artist John Ryan continues to be infuriated by suggestions that the antics of his most famous creation, Captain Pugwash, are veiled with sexual innuendo and spiced with obscene names. Even after a Sunday newspaper retracted a story to this effect and apologised, Ryan finds the slurs have persisted elsewhere.

Ryan is at loss to know how the jokes started. He also dismisses the claim that the Pugwash series was taken off television because of doubts over its content. The series ended, innocently, in 1980 after nearly 20 years.

Ryan, who lectures in schools, is keen that Pugwash should not suffer any further damage to his reputation. "I don't want to be remembered as the man who wrote dirty children's books," he says.

A careful perusal of Irish Tourist Board brochures failed to alert excited American visitors to all the excitement of the Emerald Isle. On a day trip from Fishguard to Rossaree they boarded a train for Dublin. All went smoothly until the engine hit 19 stray cows. The scenery for three hours while waiting for another train. After hasty rightseeing in the Irish capital, they boarded a train back, which caught fire outside the small port of Arklow midway on the return journey. They waited almost an hour for another replacement. They had plenty of time to discuss their adventures at Rossaree. By the time they got there they had missed the Jerry back.



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

DEMOCRACY EXPECTS

The British prime minister is under no constitutional obligation to secure parliamentary approval for her Gulf mobilisation. She can send troops to fight overseas, form or reform alliances, redirect the nation's foreign affairs without even summoning her cabinet. She is all powerful as long as she retains the Queen's pleasure, pending the expiry of her term of office. But she is still accountable to parliament.

At first glance, the past week has been extraordinary. A navy and air task force of some 1,700 soldiers, sailors and airmen has been sent to the Middle East and put on action stations. The grounds for dispatching them remain more tenuous than is desirable: a United Nations resolution (661) which orders economic sanctions but makes no mention of military enforcement, and bilateral requests for defence assistance from Bahrain, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, with the last two of which Britain has no treaty obligations. The Saudi request was apparently made in the course of an hour-long private conversation between the Saudi king and Mrs Thatcher.

Since then, the biggest military expedition since the 1982 Falklands campaign has proceeded. The cabinet has not met. The prime minister and most of the relevant cabinet colleagues have been out of London. There has been no war cabinet of senior ministers meeting regularly to review diplomatic or military strategy. The daily emergency committee has been chaired by a junior Foreign Office minister and all decisions are co-ordinated through Charles Powell, a private secretary in Downing Street. There has been not so much as a whiff of bipartisan consultation, let alone parliamentary debate.

This is the way countries slide into unintended crises. Countless wars start by accident. Initially, Mrs Thatcher could argue that the mobilisation was purely precautionary. Tornado and Jaguar squadrons were being deployed to Saudi Arabia as a deterrent to help a friend. The Armilla patrol in the Gulf was being reinforced in response to increased tension in the area, and to deter breaches in legally-binding United Nations sanctions. So the sending of each additional ship or squadron is a quantitative escalation, not a qualitative one.

This argument cannot hold much longer. The link between Britain's presence in the Gulf

and resolutions of the United Nations is becoming ever more thin. The UN has not authorised military action to enforce sanctions. While the squadrons in Saudi Arabia could be seen as a deterrent to hold the status quo, the Royal Navy's rules of engagement are different. It is helping to enforce a blockade of Iraq and is using as authority, not the UN Security Council but the request of a third party, Kuwait, under the collective self-defence provisions of the UN Charter. Britain has no formal treaty with Kuwait to defend (let alone help recapture) its territory. It has no authority from the UN to attack ships on the high seas.

Britain has not acted alone: 17 nations, a respectably large number, have also promised or mobilised forces to counter Iraq's aggression. The British forces are only a small contribution to an international force of some 120,000 troops deployed or now en route. There are good reasons for what Britain is doing in the Gulf, though the risk of escalation is awesome. President Saddam Hussein's aggression cannot be allowed to stand. Effective sanctions, combined with a firm demonstration of international will to use force if absolutely necessary, offer the best hope that neither these nor further British forces will have to see active service. But custom and practice must soon demand that these reasons be presented to the nation other than through Downing Street and Foreign Office briefings.

The bipartisanship that marked the initial stages of this affair is evaporating. Both the Labour and Liberal parties have indicated their concern at Britain going beyond the terms of UN resolution 661. Substantial elements within the Conservative party, and within the armed forces, are worried at troops being drawn into a land war in the Middle East on American coat-tails. These concerns should be aired and answered in public.

Recalling Parliament has about it the edge of crisis. In its present over-whipped state, the House of Commons is unlikely to do more than raise the political temperature without much increase in public enlightenment. But armed conflict is no ordinary government measure. The government's strategy involves lives, huge amounts of public money and great national interests. Democracy demands the cross-examination of those responsible. Parliament is the proper forum for such cross-examination. Parliament should be recalled.

JUDGMENT OF SALMAN

Nobody has claimed that the film *International Guerrillas* is a masterpiece with any artistic merit. It is a piece of cheap and silly propaganda. The Video Appeals Committee of the British Board of Film Classification decided yesterday that it should not be banned from distribution, reversing an equally silly decision of the board. The board should now ask itself how it went so astray, so as not to waste its time on such trivia again.

Part of the explanation may be that the film is a sort of reply to *The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie, and the English artistic and literary world has had trouble feeling firm ground beneath its ideological feet ever since that controversy broke. The novel contained an obscure passage which Muslims, once they were alerted and the passage explained to them, have loudly and violently excoriated as a profane defamation of their Prophet. Mr Rushdie was condemned to death by the late Ayatollah Khomeini for it, and to this day he has had police protection.

Against the censure of Muslims his defenders have pleaded freedom of speech. Mr Rushdie, to give him credit, has declared that the principle applies as much to his enemies as to his own works. He submitted a testimony to the appeals committee to that effect yesterday: that it was right that his book should not be suppressed, and therefore neither should the film. More important, he shot down the only real argument offered by the board for its earlier ban, namely that the film could be a criminal libel on Mr Rushdie. He did not think so, would not take legal action and, if anyone else did, would be prepared to appear for the defence. He also called it "trash".

The film depicts Mr Rushdie, totally implausibly, as a fanatic and drunkard who murders and tortures Muslims, and is eventually struck dead by a divine thunderbolt. This was obviously nothing but a childish

revenge fantasy, yet Scotland Yard, on being asked for an opinion by the classification board, solemnly gave a warning that it could contravene the criminal law as a court might hold that it was a serious libel on Mr Rushdie.

The fact is that any libel can be a criminal libel if a jury thinks it is serious enough. Like obscenity, it is not an objective category at all. There has been only one prosecution for criminal libel in living memory, that brought unsuccessfully by James Goldsmith against the publishers of *Private Eye* in 1975. The result removed none of our ignorance about this uncharted area of criminal law. Muslims quickly realised how spurious this argument was, and claimed with some reason that a double standard was being applied. The Video Appeals Committee did not take long to see through it yesterday.

Mr Rushdie's decision to assist the publishers of the film in their appeal was a shrewd and honourable one. He saw that Mr Mohammed Fayyaz, owner of the company with British rights to *International Guerrillas*, was resorting to those same principles of freedom of speech which Mr Rushdie has pleaded in his wider battle. As a result Muslims who want *International Guerrillas* shown in Britain and *The Satanic Verses* banned have driven themselves into a corner.

They protested that it was wrong for the law to prohibit the distribution of their film, while allowing the publication of the book. Why should it be right for the law to prohibit the publication of the book, and yet to allow the showing of the film? Freedom of speech works both ways. Yesterday's case vindicated Mr Rushdie. It will only have undermined his enemies. They must now digest the contradictions of their position. If they do so honestly, yesterday's ruling could help resolve this painful controversy.

ELECTRICAL PERKS

Henry Ford may have said you can have any colour car as long as it is black, but the past week has seen the possibility of a choice much more remarkable. A study published by the Adam Smith Institute by Dr Madsen Pirie, says gloomily: "The average car, in 100 miles of motoring, emits something like five pounds of carbon monoxide, about one pound of hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen, plus numerous assorted gases of varying degrees of toxicity... unburnt hydrocarbons can produce ozone pollution... nitrogen oxides have been blamed not only for smog, but as... a contributing factor to several respiratory diseases". It also emits 100 pounds of carbon dioxide.

We take the point; breathe if you insist, but do so at your own risk. Nor is there hope in catalytic converters, whatever they might be, because they "do nothing for carbon dioxide emission; on the contrary, they make it worse". Moreover, it is obviously useless to take up walking, unless everybody does, because we should all still be breathing the unburnt hydrocarbons and their friends and relations. We could all stay at home for ever, but that is hardly a practical solution. But this is when the Adam Smith Institute, with Dr Pirie in the van, sees its chance.

The electric car, we learn, is not a far-off hope. Rumour holds that this creation exists in hope. Rumour holds that we shall soon be able to buy France, whence we shall soon be able to buy clean electric Peugeot and Citroens, at no more than 30 per cent over the cost of a dirty one. Nor are plans for the electric car confined to France; the automobile-saturated

United States itself is in the hunt. A prototype by General Motors is soon to enter mass production, though the makers should have thought up a more reassuring name for it than the Impact.

The Adam Smith Institute specialises in matters financial, its *raison d'être* being to reduce the tax burden, encourage enterprise, promote fiscal rectitude in government and extend privatisation. Its instinct is unerring: "The Treasury in Britain currently subsidises the possession of company cars... the single most dominant element in the car market... Urban pollution caused by motor vehicles is thus promoted in part by government itself..." So Dr Pirie strikes up the ASI anthem: "Among the ways of promoting change in behaviour... there are exhortation, sticks and carrots". He waves a few carrots ("Tax concessions... to manufacturers who develop and market electric vehicles..."), but the stick comes down firmly: "Government should announce that at the end of perhaps a five-year transition period, the tax concessions on company cars will only apply to electric vehicles".

Hit them where it hurts. If you want to save your perk, it will have to be an electric perk. There will probably still be a few petrol perks, running their cars for ostentation, but otherwise the scheme can hardly fail. In one leap of the imagination, Dr Pirie and the ASI have made the tax system more fair, the atmosphere more clean, the need for oil more remote, the streets more silent, and science fiction films more plausible. Switch on!

Keeping pressure on Saddam

From Mr Julian Brazier, MP for Canterbury (Conservative)

Sir, Sir Michael Howard's article ("Why UN sanctions are better than a prolonged US war", August 17) evaluates the serious risks involved in the present approach of the US Government, supported by the UK, and castigates both for taking those risks. Nowhere does he examine the corresponding dangers of the course he proposes, i.e. merely deterring the invasion of Saudi Arabia and enforcing economic sanctions in so far as the UN desires.

The latter course will not drive Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait peacefully. Even if the UN agrees enforcement measures which would be effective (something we cannot rely on given past failures with sanctions), it is most unlikely that Saddam would bow out before them without a bloody fight, something the UN would be unlikely to remain solid in supporting.

Professor Howard's analogy with Korea is particularly misleading as there were no comparable risks in under-reacting there. North Korea was not developing nuclear weapons, was not close to Europe (Baghdad to Athens is 1,200 miles) and the Korean peninsula was not pivotal to the world's economy. There is also, as he does acknowledge, no "China" behind Iraq.

If Saddam Hussein is seen to get away with annexing Kuwait, his star will rise still further in the Arab world. Once his atomic capability is ready, the world will face far greater risks than those in the current carefully balanced approach of the US and UK, which is gaining a widening circle of support.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN BRAZIER,
House of Commons.
August 17.

From Mr Paul Jackson

Sir, Today, you reproduce an aircraft recognition chart displayed in HMS York for the instruction of missile operators and gunners. The photograph and three-view silhouette listed under "Kuwait" and boldly captioned "Mirage F1", are, in fact, of the very different Mirage III. This has delta wings, whereas the Mirage F1 has more traditional swept-back wings positioned differently on the fuselage.

Most importantly, our potential adversary, Iraq, has Mirage F1s and, presumably, the use of captured Kuwaiti aircraft of the same type. Our potential allies, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Israel all fly members of the Mirage III family.

Furthermore, the "Tu-22" picture is of a Tu-26. Iraq has Tu-22s, but not Tu-26s - which are flown only by the Soviet Union and, in the present context, should not be regarded as potentially hostile.

Modest expenditure at any good bookshop will secure one of many volumes available on the subject of aircraft and their recognition. Have we not the wit to identify the possible hostile forces before (God forbid) we start shooting?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL JACKSON,
The Grange,
Pulham Market,
Norfolk.
August 17.

Joint champions

From Mr Keith Thompson

Sir, Dr Carey, the Archbishop-elect, whose name may be evidence of some Irish ancestry, is safe in his choice of football allegiance (August 10), not so the Chief Rabbi-elect.

Traditionally (though not exclusively) the Irish community in north London supports Arsenal, while the Jewish community supports Tottenham Hotspur. The intense rivalry between these two great football teams is also traditionally unbroken.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH THOMPSON,
60 Moorlands,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire.
August 10.

From Mrs M. Hilary Spear

Sir, Mr Moss's hopes of divine intervention in the fortunes of the Arsenal Football Club are surely ill-founded. We have it on the authority of St Peter (Acts 10, verse 34) that God has no favourites.

Yours faithfully,
M. HILARY SPEAR,
17 Wadhurst Close,
St Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex.
August 10.

Drug for infants

From the Chief Executive of the Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths

Sir, The title of your report, "Cot death drug gets US licence" (August 7), is misleading. A drug to help prevent cot deaths would be useful but it is important to emphasise that the drug referred to is primarily for premature babies weighing under 3lbs with respiratory difficulties in the first year of life. Although respiratory diseases are thought to be associated with many cot deaths the majority of the 2,000 babies dying each year as cot deaths are not premature infants.

In addition, whilst respiratory diseases can be identified, cot deaths are by definition sudden and unexpected and in most cases

Democracy seen in altered light

From Mr Paul Valley

Sir, Sir Alan Walters's argument ("The light way to succeed", August 14) that economic growth and prosperity do not flow from democracy only succeeds because of the peculiar nature of the examples he chooses.

Hong Kong has to a limited but significant extent piggy-backed upon the democratic virtues of Britain, its colonising power; moreover its economic vitality owes much to the repression or underdevelopment of many of the other countries of the region to which it acts as a magnet for frustrated entrepreneurial forces elsewhere.

Chile's burgeoning under Pinochet may owe something to a loosening of previous socialist restrictions, but it is also linked to the economic encouragement of the US, which was after all instrumental in orchestrating the coup which ousted the democratically-elected government of Allende; a number of US economic aid sweeteners have been made available to Pinochet which were denied to Allende.

Israel's economic constipation does not spring solely from its people seeking after political influence and preferment; the production of goods can never be the chief motivator in a nation with a war mentality which is reinforced constantly by the threats it perceives in the Arab world.

Most importantly, if economic progress can proceed unimpeded only at a cost to certain of the virtues of democracy then there may be a number of partial checks which a civilised society deems it necessary to accept. The truth is, once again, more complex than Professor Walters would have us believe.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL VALLEY,
6 rue Beclard,
49100 Angers, France.

Planning gain

From Dr Richard Fordham

Sir, Your leader (August 4) portrays planning gain as the serpent in England's rural Eden. Naturally we do not quite see it in this way, since we make our living from advising councils how to get it.

Development is necessary for the health of society as well as the growth of the economy. If most of the population of the South-east is to have an acceptable quality of life, more than the present 16 per cent or so of its surface will have to be urbanised. There are good arguments why some of this should be in new settlements rather than endless suburbs attached to existing ones.

Each case should be considered on its merits, rather than excluded on principle, as your leader seems to do. Bargaining between coun-

cil and developers or landowners is perfectly consistent with integrity: there are good and bad bargains.

Planning gain is a rather misleading term. It actually refers to whatever is necessary to make a planning permission an acceptable bargain. In some cases, of course, nothing will make permission acceptable and so refusal is the proper course.

Bargaining is part of life. Corruption is a disease of the process, not its essence. Bargaining is central to planning, and often essential to the provision of satisfactory planning gains.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD FORDHAM
(Managing Director),
Planning Gain Consultants,
1 Rupert House,
Tisbury Court, W1.
August 5.

legally binding throughout the country. According to Dr Helmut Haussmann, the West German Economics Minister,

Our dual system of occupational training, in which industry and the schools, central government and the regions co-operate closely with one another guarantees that the German Federal Republic continues to remain at the top of the league in international competition. The training regulations lay the foundations for a modern approach to apprenticeship training. They reflect the current state of technology and yet, at the same time, are so flexible that they will be of lasting benefit.

Why don't we adopt a similar approach?

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW WATTS,
Chief Executive,
The Institute of Plumbing,
64 Station Lane,
Hornchurch, Essex.

Museum sale

From Mr Charles Hendry

Sir, The Chairman of National Heritage (August 16) is right to state that any move to sell treasures from Buxton's award-winning museum would be deplorable. However, Mr Lettis is wrong in one crucial respect. It is not the borough council that has proposed the sale, but Derbyshire County Council, faced with the need to reduce its excessively high community charge burden.

High Peak Borough Council has already taken legal steps to prevent the sale and petitions have been started.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES HENDRY
(Prospective parliamentary candidate),
High Peak Conservative Association,
1a Hardwick Mount,
Buxton,
Derbyshire.
August 16.

Cosmopolitan bicycle

From Mrs J. P. Clode

Sir, Last week I bought a bicycle with "Raleigh, Nottingham, England" emblazoned on the front. Whilst pedalling up my first hill, humming "Rule Britannia", I noticed the pump was made in France. Intrigued I glanced at the gears - Shimano - and then the brakes - a combination of Weinmann and Lee Chi.

I braked and did a closer survey. The tyres came from Taiwan, the prop stand is Italian, the front basket is made in Britain, and the bike bag is Indonesian.

Everything working in harmony I reflected, and as the reflectors (from Japan) were glinting in the setting sun I turned for home. This week I must buy some cycle lamps - I wonder where they will come from.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. CLODE,
66 Park Road, Hythe, Kent.
August 5.

Obstacle course

From Mrs Rachel Gibbs

Sir, The answer to your correspondence in today's *Times* as to how grandparents survive visits from their second generation is to set their own obstacle course.

We have a family tradition that you have to climb Cader Idris (2,927 ft) before you are six. Our second granddaughter has just achieved this in splendid style at five years and three months. Her elder sister passed the test last year. My maternal grandfather (born 1867) climbed Cader with his grandmother when he was five. Our rules are that you are not

allowed to be carried and must not whinge, but you can have your hand held.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL GIBBS,
21 Albion Square, E8.
August 14.

From Mr R. E. Foot

Sir, I was sympathetic to Mrs Marshall's letter describing the visit of her young grandson, Mine, a year younger than Mrs Marshall's, was instrumental in my being able to celebrate the somewhat unusual double of a 40th wedding anniversary and German measles during the same week.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. FOOT,
32 Sutherland Avenue,
Peters Wood,
Orpington, Kent.
August 14.

Fate of the Kow Swamp bones

From Mr Peter H. Pigott

Sir, I am appalled by your Archaeology Correspondent's report ("Decision time for the Aboriginal Dreamtime", August 6) that the Government of Victoria may concede to Aboriginal demands for custody of the Kow Swamp bones. When emotion mixed with political objectives takes over from common sense and reason, the results can be disastrous.

If we are to ignore great men of science, such as Emeritus Professor John Mulvaney and Dr Alan Thorne, and act on the radical recommendations of those less knowledgeable, we throw archaeology to the winds in Australia.

The argument may have very great consequences for palaeontology. Many archaeologists believe that the Kow Swamp people represent a different and earlier migration of people to Australia than the ancestors of the present day Aboriginal. This of course may, in the minds of the few radicals pressing for what amounts to the destruction of the Kow Swamp remains, be a sinister thorn in the side of the land rights claim.

The Kow Swamp material is of extra-national importance and cannot be claimed by people living today, separated by 750 generations and a different race. This nonsense must stop or future generations of archaeologists, black and white, will look back on this era as the dark and ignorant days for archaeology, when common sense no longer prevailed and ignorance became triumphant.

Yours etc.,
PETER H. PIGOTT (Chairman,
Federal Government Committee
of Enquiry into Museums and
National Collections, 1974-75),
As from: Yengo, Queen's Avenue,
Mount Wolfson,
New South Wales, Australia.

Death penalty

From the Director of Amnesty International British Section

Sir, Contrary to Lord Denning's recent assertions (report, August 17) hanging a prisoner does not stop protests about their innocence continuing after their death. In the case of Timothy Evans, the community was not satisfied by his execution in 1949; he was not forgotten and protests persisted until he was posthumously pardoned in 1956.

In the ten years following the abolition of the death penalty in the UK in 1959, eight people convicted of murder were released because of proof that they had been framed or had been convicted on the basis of unsound forensic evidence.

Since then, cases like the Guildford Four have shown that the British system of justice can lead to wrongful convictions. Amnesty International's research into the death penalty world-wide shows that no system of justice is ever perfect enough to make a final decision on guilt or innocence - or life or death.

Yours sincerely,
MARIE STAUNTON, Director,
Amnesty International
British Section,
99-119 Rosebery Avenue, EC1.
August 17.

EC and East Europe

From the Editor of New European

Sir, Your report of Margaret Thatcher's Aspen speech, as well as your editorial, "Mrs Thatcher's new world" (August 6) suggest letting Eastern European countries, including the Soviet Union, join the European Community as soon as they are economically ready. I wonder sometimes if some plan to let them enter and then prepare from within might not be even better?

What is worrying, however, is that even Efta countries, who are economically ready, are not particularly welcomed. In a recent debate on EC/Efta relations in the House of Lords, Lord Cockfield revealed clearly the reason why Efta countries should not be allowed to join. It was that they had free trade with third countries outside Europe and the Community could not tolerate that.

If the Community had free trade with the rest of the world, what impediment would there be to the marriage of the EC and Efta? I fail to understand how the Community can claim that it is not creating a "fortress Europe" so long as it maintains its essential character on the basis of a customs union and not a free trade.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN COLEMAN, Editor,
New European,
14-16 Carroon Road, SW8.

allowed to be carried and must not whinge, but you can have your hand held.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL GIBBS,
21 Albion Square, E8.
August 14.

From Mr R. E. Foot
Sir, I was sympathetic to Mrs Marshall's letter describing the visit of her young grandson, Mine, a year younger than Mrs Marshall's, was instrumental in my being able to celebrate the somewhat unusual double of a 40th wedding anniversary and German measles during the same week.

Yours faithfully,
R. E. FOOT,
32 Sutherland Avenue,
Peters Wood,
Orpington, Kent.
August 14.

THE RT REV ALEXANDER MUGE

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

The Lyceum wins a counter attack

Changing face

No Grade I listed building has stood for so long on Death Row as Liverpool's noble Regency Lyceum. Yet today, the Post Office staff who tread the wall-to-wall carpeting and sit in the newly restored building behind panelled counters worthy of Courts Bank have no idea that it once stood condemned.

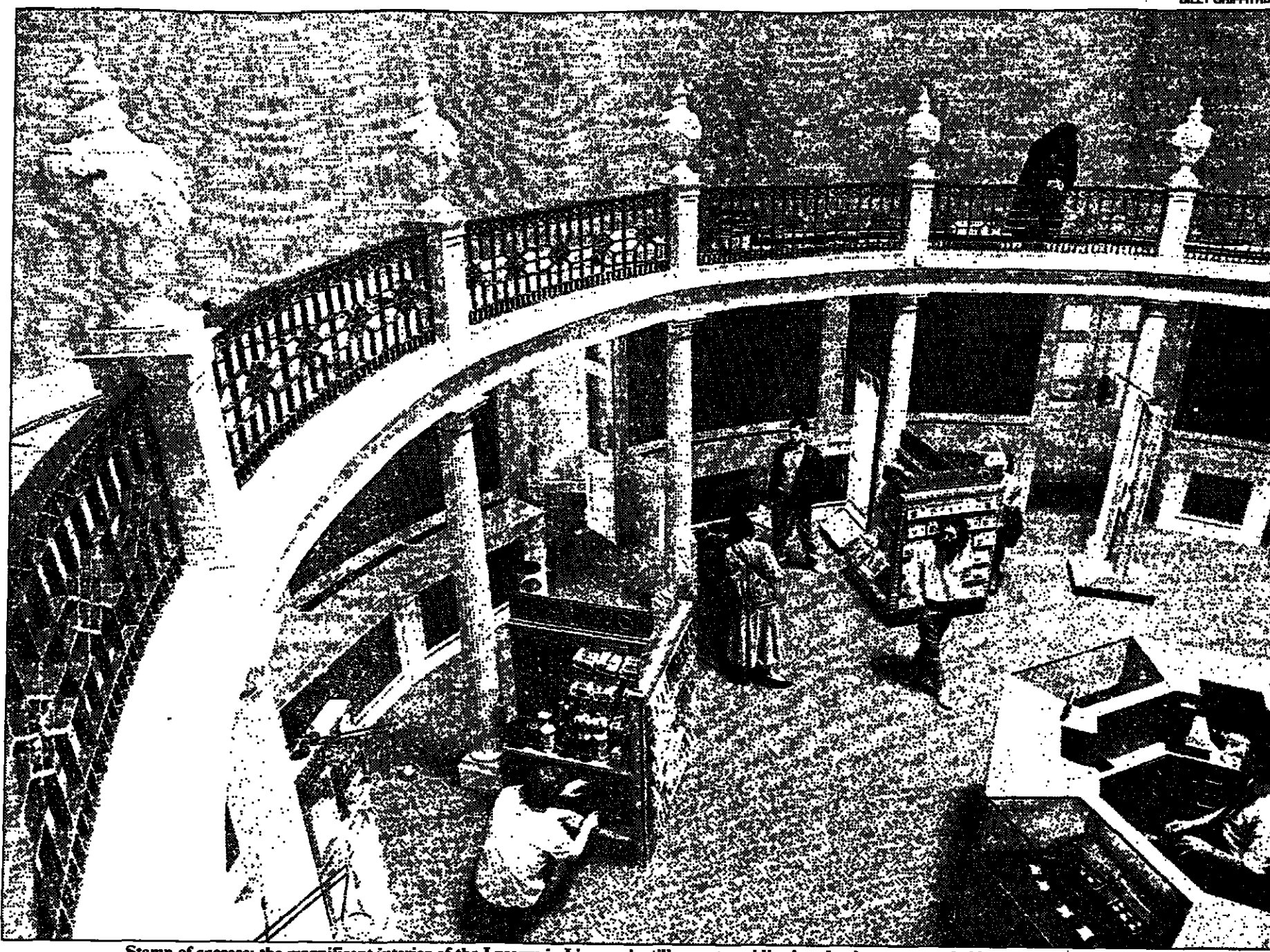
Opened in 1802 as a combined library, news room and coffee room, with 800 members, the Lyceum shares with Brooks's Club, in London, the distinction of being one of the very few buildings where government has stepped in and paid up to revoke a planning permission. Whereas Brooks's windfall came from exploiting a loophole in the law in the Sixties (its redevelopment plans were blocked by the government, which then paid the club £90,000 in compensation), Peter Shore, the then Labour environment secretary, decided to spend up to £500,000 to halt redevelopment of the Lyceum site in 1979.

The reputedly stony-hearted secretary of state, who a year before had rebuffed all appeals to save Menmore Towers and its treasures for the nation, was persuaded by the sheer volume of impassioned pleas from the ordinary people of Liverpool.

Before Mr Shore could complete the compulsory purchase, Mrs Thatcher had won her first election victory and Michael Heseltine was sitting in his place. Mr Heseltine was promptly faced with the decision — and the bill — to save two important neo-classical monuments in the Greek Revival style — the Grange, in Hampshire, and Liverpool's Lyceum. He promptly demanded that both pieces of public expenditure be justified anew but to his everlasting credit he did not adopt an either/or attitude but decided to restore both buildings.

The Grange, which had been taken into guardianship as an ancient monument after an international outcry, had to be restored from his own departmental budget, but the Lyceum, he determined, should be sold for a commercial use.

In the Liverpool of the early 1980s, to a background of the Toxteth riots, the prospect looked bleak until Mr Heseltine sealed a remarkable deal with the Post Office. Of the £625,000 he spent on buying the building and carrying out essential repairs, he recovered just over half from the sale.



Stamp of success: the magnificent interior of the Lyceum in Liverpool, still open to public view thanks to a remarkable deal with the Post Office

The virtue of Post Office use is that it means all the main interiors are fully accessible to the public. The fear of Florence Gerstyn, the Liverpool teacher who ran the campaign, was that the building would be sold off as offices, and none of those who had signed the petitions, worn the badges and baked thousands of Lyceum cakes would ever see inside.

Every possible public use had been explored, including refurbishment as Liverpool's register office — the noble portico would have made the perfect backdrop

for wedding photographs. The best part of the Post Office restoration is that its staff are so visibly pleased with the new accommodation, quite the most superior in the Liverpool area. The former news room, decorated with friezes of which Lord Elgin would certainly have approved, now offers the full range of post office counter services, while the rotunda beyond, formerly the library, is the fourth of the new philately centres where customers can go on to buy the best that Stanley Gibbons can offer for their stamp albums, and a

whole range of postcards and pillar box souvenirs.

The virtue of the Post Office use is that every part of the building is fully occupied. The ground floor on Ranelagh Street has been leased to a building society and a wine bar is opening behind.

The top floor, where the club had created a dining room and billiard room, is now occupied by 40 Post Office managers who enjoy old fashioned rooms rather than modern open plan.

The Lyceum's architect, Thomas Harrison, of Chester,

would be delighted to see his noble ashlar stone clean again. (I shall never forget seeing a developer's sketch showing the facade re-erected the wrong way round beneath Liverpool Cathedral as if all the chiselled stones could simply be turned back to front.)

Harrison had a "spark divine", according to C.R. Cockerell, architect of the Ashmolean Museum and the Liverpool branch of the Bank of England. "The most classical and scientific architect of his day", was Lord Elgin's verdict. The Lyceum had been con-

demned principally because the city council had wished to see two entire city centre blocks swept away for huge shopping centres. After the successful battle over the Lyceum, a reprieve was won for the streets opposite and the new covered shopping centre cleverly worked in behind. Bold Street and Ranelagh Street are now lively, attractive and popular places to shop in a way that the new concrete shopping precincts could never have been.

MARCUS BINNEY

Events in town

THIS WEEKEND

● International street musical festival: More than 100 musicians taking part in samba, jazz and steel bands, plus the Trinidad Tent Theatre.
Riverside, Richmond, Surrey. Today, tomorrow, 2-5pm, free.

● Smithfield fair: Victorian attractions and entertainments, plus barrel races, tug-of-war, stalls, sideshows and Morris dancers.
Smithfield Market, London EC1. Tomorrow, 1-5pm, free.

● Family fun day: Arena events, craft fair, clowns, Punch and Judy, sideshows and bands.
Walham Forest Town Hall, Forest Road, London E17. Tomorrow, noon, £1.50, child free.

● The Alexandra Palace grand concert organ: First public performance on the Willis organ since the Thirties. Two recitals: 10.30am-12.30pm and 2-4.30pm.
Alexandra Palace, Wood Green, London N22. Tomorrow, £10 (information 081-444 9135).

● Kettering carnival: Charity parade through town in aid of the blind, with 31 floats and nine bands.
Kettering, Northamptonshire. Today. Leaves Grange Estate 1pm, arrives Wilson's Terrace about 3.30pm.

NEXT WEEK

● Chinwary and the China Coast: An exhibition of 70 paintings by European and Chinese artists, working in south China during the 19th century.

Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1. Mon to Sat 7, during normal opening hours.

● Milton Keynes international folk festival: Six days of music and dance groups.
Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Further information, Civic Offices (0908 632682) and Woughton Leisure Centre (0908 660392).

● Green Belt 1990: International Christian festival with musicians, writers, performers and poets.
Castle Ashby Park, Northampton. Fri-Mon (071-700 6585).

● Syon craft show: Around 200 stands with craft demonstrations, including the Guilds of Sussex and Surrey Craftsmen. Family entertainment, folk music. Also a garden centre, butterfly house, and an English Heritage museum.
Syon Park, Brentford, Middlesex. Thurs-Mon, 10am-6pm, £3, child £1, under-5 free.

● Festival of Furness Abbey: Largest outdoor festival of music and theatre in the north of England. Highlights include 12 performances of *Jesus Christ Superstar*, celebrity concerts, soul singers and jazz.

Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria. Mon to Sat 11 (0229 811409). JUDY FROSHAUG

Help: John Fisher, animal behaviourist

The real hound inspector

THERE is one sure way to deal with a recalcitrant rottweiler or a bad-tempered beagle, according to John Fisher, an animal behaviourist, and that is to show that you are the top dog.

No dog is too difficult to tackle for Mr Fisher, a former police and prison service dog handler. "When a dog is brought to see me I establish two basic rules," he says. "One, that he can have food I give it — but can never take it. Second, another dominance rule, that I always go through a door first."

To hammer home the first rule he uses a sound-aversion technique, so that every time a dog tries to take food it is not supposed to a training disc emits a painful noise. The second rule he implements by slamming a door so it just misses the nose of any dog foolish enough to try to squeeze through in front of him. "He may try it three times but on the fourth he will step back," says Mr Fisher, a member of the Association of Pet Behaviour Consultants.

Mr Fisher will advise on everything from where your pet should



Top dog: John Fisher and pet sleep to how to make it less jealous of a new baby. As regards the latter, he says: "One family had a boxer which jumped up and tried to scratch the child. I discovered the dog loved white chocolate, so I gave it some whenever the baby was around, and made it sit in order to get it. After that it sat

calmly whenever the baby was around."

One place a guard dog should not sleep is outside in the garden, "because the dog will think of this as its territory, and not the house, and will just look at the funny man climbing into the window."

Mr Fisher believes that a dog's diet can have a crucial influence on its character. "I recently saw a bearded collie which had become very aggressive towards its owner, who was feeding it an inexpensive tinned food and white rice. I changed the animal to an American whole food diet for dogs, and it has been a different dog."

People most often take their pets to an animal behaviourist because of aggressiveness and destructiveness, "not that these are the most common problems, but because they are the ones people feel the need to control", Mr Fisher says.

He charges £40 for a two-hour session plus follow-up advice. Appointments are ideally made through referral by a veterinarian. "If I need to see a dog on a second occasion I don't charge," he says. He also offers free advice by telephone.

His basic principle is that you should be regarded by your dog as the leader of the pack: you have the right to sleep in its bed and share its food (and should even, occasionally, pretend to exercise these prerogatives by sitting in the dog basket and making the dog wait until you have finished eating before allowing it to take the leftovers) — but the dog should never assume it has the right to share yours.

VICTORIA MCKEE

● John Fisher, Greenwagh, Maddox Lane, Bookham, Surrey KT23 3HT (0373 57954). His leaflet "The Dog in the Human Pack" is £2, plus s.p.

Squaring up to an inner city threat

Roger Phillips is a man with a mission — to protect London's garden squares

WHEN a property developer sent a landscape architect to explain plans to build a car park underneath one of London's prettiest garden squares, they were both in for a surprise. For the representative of the residents of Eccleston Square, in Piccadilly, was Roger Phillips, the nature photographer and a man who loves London's garden squares.

The author of many best selling books on plants, including the definitive *Wild Flowers of Britain*, Mr Phillips was dead set against the car park — and went on to do something about it.

The proposal was for the building of a three-storey underground car park for 900 cars with all the attendant lifts, air vents, special fire equipment and ramps. Six 150-year-old London plane trees would have been uprooted and at least 30 or 40 others would have been damaged.

Mr Phillips was appalled and started researching the legal background with such vigour that within a month he had formed the Society for the Protection of London Squares. As chairman, he aims to examine all 461 squares listed in the 1928 Royal Commission on London Squares, which led to the Preservation of



Not in my back yard: Roger Phillips helps maintain his Piccadilly square

London Squares Act 1931. Sixty years ago, most of these garden squares belonged to the great private landowners, such as the dukes of Westminster and Bedford. Since then, many of the houses and the gardens have been sold, some to developers.

Mr Phillips found that most residents were unaware of their rights and did not know the name of the freeholder of their garden. He also discovered that leases are being granted without proper clauses to guarantee access to the gardens and without provision for payment of garden rates (usually

compulsory for maintenance and in addition to poll tax). Local and central government are wary of legislating against underground development, and preservation laws protect only surface buildings and trees. Developers can often present a plausible case to a local authority for a car park, thereby turning an oasis of greenery in an inner city into a semi-industrial site. "Profits from building one car park could amount to between £5 and £30 million," Mr Phillips says. The residents of one square cannot combat this kind of financial muscle single-handed.

The developer has withdrawn the plan to build under Eccleston Square. The society believes that such car parks lead to even worse traffic congestion in inner London, increase the air and noise pollution and create an environment conducive to crime.

The contribution that these gardens make to the environmental balance is impossible to quantify.

GERALDINE RANSON

● The Society for the Protection of London Squares, 15a Eccleston Square, London SW1 (071-834 8654), has heard from the representatives of about 80 London squares but would like to hear from others. *Wild Flowers of Britain*, by Roger Phillips (Pan, £12.99).

Contour beds.
For whichever way you like to sleep (well almost)

Some people will go any lengths to get a really good night's sleep. But on a Contour bed finding that perfect sleeping position is blissfully simple. At the touch of a button your fully adjustable Contour bed will ease into the contours of your body. And provide a perfect night's rest — in complete comfort and support. You don't have to stand on your head to wake up to a better back — on a Contour bed. In fact all you have to do is send for your FREE brochure today.

For your FREE brochure, please fill in this coupon and send to Contour Beds Ltd, FREEPOST Cannock, Staffs. WS12 4BR or FREELINE 0800 850 669.

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
POSTCODE _____
TEL. NO. _____

CONTOUR beds

Take a leaf from the streetwise stroller

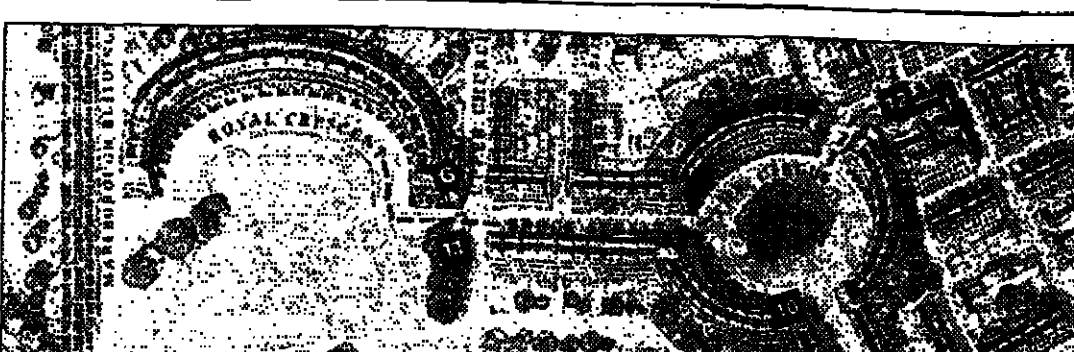
Guides with removable maps are pointing the way ahead for urban and rural walkers

THE walking world is becoming ringbound, and a very good thing it is, too. In the space of a few months two shelf-warping collections of strolls have appeared in file form: a rural one from the Automobile Association and Ordnance Survey, and an urban one from *Reader's Digest*. This is clearly the way ahead.

Their beauty is that you can light on your chosen route, detach it from the file and slip the single sheet into a transparent folder. The *Digest* machine has produced a quarter of a million copies of

Town Tours in Britain (£25.95), and expects to sell them all.

The arrival of such a volume is a reminder that townies can do some rewarding legwork without breaking bounds. There are 200 suggested town routes, illustrated by three-dimensional aerial maps, which only a giant such as the *Digest* could contemplate, for they cost a fortune to produce. The company's art department works from a number of aerial photographs taken from different vantage points, and produces a line drawing. Once this has been



The lofty view: part of the guide to Bath, shown in three-dimensional detail, from *Town Tours in Britain*

checked for accuracy, the artist has to perform tiny "falsifications" in order to make visible sections hidden behind buildings.

In the course of the guide's 18-month gestation, the pictures have to be checked to discover buildings which have already been, or are about to be, added and which ones have been demolished.

This is good, middle-ground

literature, with a written guide which is neither too erudite nor too simplistic. Yet what works well in the smaller, discrete towns does so more imperfectly, more tantalisingly, in the larger ones. The reason for this is that since the maps are framed around the walks themselves rather than the towns, the versions offered of, say, Bristol or Newcastle, or even York or

Oxford, cannot hope to be much more than a fragment. But such a reservation is only the classic walker's complaint of wanting to know what happens beyond the bits that are shown, and of trying to encompass the whole of a location with the mind's eye if not the soles of the feet.

ALAN FRANKS

Home from home: Rosemary Conley

After cottage industry, a cottage loaf

What makes someone buy a second home not far away from their first — particularly when their first is a magnificent former parsonage with a sauna, massage room and stables? "Privacy," says Rosemary Conley, the high priestess of the *Hip and Thigh* diet, who runs Rosemary Conley Enterprises from what were once the servants' quarters in the attic of her home in Leicester-shire. "There are so many people coming in and out of the parsonage because of the business that we wanted to get away to somewhere where we could be just the two of us, just Mr and Mrs Rimmington."

Mike Rimmington is her second husband, and younger than Ms Conley — 30 to her 43. They met on a pony-trekking holiday seven years ago. She has a daughter, Dawn, aged 15, from her previous marriage, who helps her to run the exercise classes she still manages to teach at a Leicester hotel. Dawn lives with her father for part of the week and with her mother for the remainder.

Mr Rimmington, who used to market chemicals, now markets his wife. After having been in "the big time," as she puts it, when she started and ran the Successful Slimming And Good Grooming (SAGG) empire, with some 600 clubs around the country, Ms Conley is determined not to let her present business interests expand to the point where she and her husband can no longer comfortably keep personal control.

The new acquisition looks more like a street of cottages joined, higgledy-piggledy, under a gently undulating thatched roof. It is 140ft long, has exposed beams, several cosy, yet spacious, sitting rooms and an acre of garden that has taken more than 300 years of tending to get to its present state of velvety perfection.

"The parsonage was being taken over by the people we have working for us there — two girls in the office, a part-time gardener, a woman who looks after the house, and one who does the ironing," Ms Conley says. "It was Mike's idea to buy another house — partly as an investment — and I think

now he prefers the cottage to the parsonage. Given the choice, I would always choose the parsonage.

"The cottage is separated from where we live and work without requiring a huge trek to get to, and we are quite happy to stay in the same general area where we can just potter around." Their second home is about half an hour's drive away, in either Ms Conley's Jaguar XJS or Mr Rimmington's Range Rover, which, like the cottage, are fruits of her best-selling diet books, which have spent more than 200 weeks on the charts and sold more than two million copies.

"We are not summer holiday people, and hate beaches," she says. "We enjoy going away for a few days on our boat, which we keep moored by the parsonage, but I have enough of travelling from book tour."

"Nobody is going to have the telephone number here, and I'm certainly not going to run any exercise classes here" (a former exercise studio at the parsonage has been converted into office space in an attempt to further separate the business from their home life). The Rimmingtons do, however, keep a fax and computer at the hideaway — "just to keep in touch. We have to be practical."

"At first, we thought we'd do without a cleaner or a gardener," Ms Conley says, "but then we realised we would be spending too much time doing that instead of relaxing."

The parsonage is in a village with a busy main road and "lots of noise about from the quarrying. They are also building a by-pass nearby. The cottage is in a very small, quiet, village with a post office that doesn't even sell milk. The feeling is very different."

They decamp sporadically and spontaneously, as the mood strikes them, and usually with their two children. "We like to vary our weeks," Ms Conley says. "Sometimes we just go for a day, sometimes for several."

But even if they go away for a weekend the Rimmingtons, both born-again Christians, make sure they are back in time for church on Sunday. They keep separate wardrobes



Relaxed: Rosemary Conley at the second home she bought to escape the pressures of the slimming business

at each home and try to observe in each certain pleasant rituals they have evolved during their marriage. That means having a three course meal on Saturday nights in the beamed dining room — low fat, of course — and opening a bottle of wine.

In contrast to the parsonage, which is furnished largely in reproduction furniture, the 17th century cottage has given them a

taste for antiques, many bought at auctions and car boot sales. "I can't imagine hiring anybody to furnish a place for you," Ms Conley says, "unless you really don't have the time or the eye for it. It is so much fun to do it yourself."

The main sitting room has "a theme of birds" and other rooms have also been compiled around a conscious theme. The dining room was inspired by the willow

patterned crockery. The television room is "the brass room".

Ms Conley insists that her new cottage is not a sign that something was wrong in her existing set-up. "I'm not trying to escape," she says. "I just want to get more out of life. And in my sort of work you have to feel happy with yourself in order to succeed."

VICTORIA MCKEE

Farmer's diary: Paul Heiney

Cock flight at the KO corral

WILD geese are not the only creatures which can lead a man on a hopeless, heartbreaking chase. Since I took on this farm almost every animal has shown equal talent. Animals are not a problem when they are contentedly munching their way across the landscape; the trouble arises when they have to be moved to another part of it and do not want to go.

There is often no choice. In our case, the heifers had to be put on to fresh grass or they would starve; the sheep had to be moved to their wintering fields or they would melt. Then there were the chickens.

We were given a bantam hen and chicks, and sternly warned to cull the cockerels as soon as puberty struck: three randy young bantam cocks pursuing a couple of maiden hens are not conducive to a peaceful farmyard. Not having the skill or the inclination to wring a chicken's neck, I built a wire-netting run and put them in it until an executioner could be found. Within minutes an escape plan had been

hatched: the boys were under the wire, free and crowing in defiance. I have now decided on a new approach to poultry keeping. I shall fence in the vegetables instead, since they are slower on their feet, and let the chickens have their freedom until fat enough for the pot. Just how I shall strike I do not know, but my new farming motto is: never admit failure, call it a change of policy.

The heifers are a more serious business. They are three young Red Poll cows with a prize-winning pedigree worthy of *Debut*, and for financial as well as protocol reasons they deserve royal treatment. Being of an old-fashioned breed, they will make do on meagre rations. However, I decided that simply making do on arid grass was not good enough for them, and that they must go to pastures new.

As I reported some weeks ago, when they first arrived the cows were wild enough for a western rodeo. An outstretched hand had them galloping away in fright, a muttered word in their silky, red ears made their eyes roll in terror. But not any longer. The girls have succumbed to my charms. I have learnt two things about cows: that they are curious, and that they are anybody's for a bucketful of oats.

Every morning for a week I rattled the bucket, let them get the scent of oats, and stood still. Day one got no response. By day three they were within an inch, by day seven we had made friends. After that, I built a pen out of rusty old gates in the corner of the field, backed the lorry in and the girls ambled up the ramp, as happy to be on the road as a load of children on a school outing. No change of policy needed there.

The sheep, however, are a different matter. Our small flock lives on a grazing marsh which is

known for its wildlife. I would care to bet, however, that nothing on this isolated wetland is as wild as our flock of young sheep. Despite the conquest of the cows, I am beginning to think that having so much youthful stock is one of the main problems of stalling a farm. Every animal is going through its teenage delinquency at a time when the poor fledgling farmer really needs mature, stable, motherly beasts around him.

Anticipating the problem of catching sheep without a dog, last Christmas we bought an orphan lamb. The idea was to raise it on the bottle, make a pet of it until it believed it was human and would come when called. Once the lamb had been returned to a flock, we would only have to go down to the marsh, call its name, and it would come to us with the rest of the flock following in line as sheep do. We called our ewe lamb Shambles. This was prophetic.

Six weeks after she had been liberated, we went down to the marsh and called "Shambles!". Disturbed birds took flight, but not one sheep's head raised itself from the grazing position. "Shambles!" I shouted again. I loud enough to stir the rabbits this time. Not a flicker. Then we made a fatal mistake: we decided to try to round up the flock ourselves.

I had with me a broad-chested chap who has Olympic aspirations and could be said to be "in training", and an elderly marshman, well past retirement. I offered to

get behind the flock and edge them forward while the other two steered them in the direction of the gate. When I banged my stick lightly on the ground, the flock fled as if I had fired a starting gun. The athlete advanced with arms and stick outstretched to head them off, a human barrier. The bleating horde jumped, on by one, over his arm. He swore. They were heading for the marshman now. "I was in the war," he shouted, readying himself for the battle. "Gallipoli, I was at." The enemy charged, jinked around him, and advanced victorious towards the horizon, the traitorous Shambles leading the column. "I'll head 'em off," the old boy shouted and using his detailed knowledge of the marsh, shot into the bracken like a stormtrooper.

No sooner was he into the undergrowth than the sheep were out the other side, helibent on inflicting further humiliation on the athlete. They were panting by now, but not half as much as we were. We gave up. In a mere 30 minutes, a small flock of sheep had got the upper hand of their alleged master, a Desert Rat and an Olympic hopeful. Remembering that all problems can be solved by the adoption of a new policy, I have reached a decision: this farm is going to have a sheepdog. I have reached another decision. It will not be a young one.



Feather report

Take a stand, there are strangers in paradise



Flights to fancy: the razorbill, gannet, kittiwake, guillemot and puffin are among the birds at risk

ODD, isn't it? Conservationists always seem to be cast as fuddy-duddies, stick-in-the-muds, Canutes defying the tide of modern life.

The people whom conservationists oppose portray themselves as righteous folk on the cutting edge of progress: people with the long-term good of the human race at heart; people whose thinking is too advanced for such silly, backward and emotional people as conservationists.

After all, conservationists merely want to keep things as they are — so people think, anyway. But their opponents favour change, they are a dynamic, forward-thinking bunch of zappy, right-minded modernists. As a notion, this is completely upside down.

But these people still airily and effortlessly claim the moral high ground. The energy department, for example, is prepared to threaten what is good, important and necessary for the sake of a species notion of progress. The people there seem unaware, as they prepare to threaten the finest seabird colony in England, that it is they who are the fuddy-duddies, that it is conservationists who look to the future.

The issue at Flamborough Head, Humberside, is gas exploration. The energy department has asked for bids from exploration companies for the "block" of sea off Flamborough Head, which has a quite remarkable seabird colony, one of international importance. In May and June, the cliffs explode with life. Three per cent of the entire north Atlantic population of kittiwakes nest there: 90,000 pairs. There are 32,000 guillemots, 7,600 razorbills, and 7,000 puffins.

There are also more than 1,000 gannets. There are few birds better

to watch than gannets: their noisy nesting colonies are as full of incidents as soap opera, their interaction, with their curious "skypointing" recognition displays, is entrancing. Their method of fishing is heartstopping — they dive like terrible medieval weapons, headfirst into the sea from about 100 ft, their spear-pointed bill crashing into the water with frightening force.

All in all, then, Flamborough Head is worth preserving. The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has a reserve there, at Bampton, and has just spent £74,000 on extending it with a further half-mile of cliffs and 15 acres of cliff-top land. The society already owned two-and-a-quarter miles of cliff-top.

The reserve attracts 100,000 visitors a year: it is almost alone in offering this remarkable collec-



Threatened by gas: Flamborough Head is worthy of preservation

tion of seabirds just a short stroll away from a car park.

The Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) has the job of advising the government on environmental issues. The energy department is keen to stress it has "taken on board" such advice.

The nub of the advice is that drilling close to the colony is an unnecessary risk to an internationally important site. The energy department has, therefore, thrown in a series of restrictions.

A licence to explore will restrict drilling to five months of the year, and it will require companies to use water-based rather than oil-based lubricants. It must show contingency plans for such potential disasters as oil spills. There is to be no drilling within a kilometre of the cliffs. However, the seabirds travel 30 kilometres out to sea in search of food. The seas off Flamborough Head are a vital feeding ground for 12 months of the year. "It is unacceptable to place increased risk on the most important marine area in England," says Mark Tasker, the seabird specialist for the NCC.

The energy department is "fully aware of the environmental sensitivity of the area". But it is taking bids for the area anyway. A company that has a bid for the Flamborough "block" accepted will strike a solid blow against the cause of conservation. Its explorations will be clearly visible to the 100,000 visitors: not the finest publicity stunt in the world.

The defence will be that such gas explorations represent forward thinking, as if the notion of a world teeming with life and variety, a world which allows the concept of grandchildren, somehow demonstrated retrograde thinking.

SIMON BARNES

Country events

THIS WEEKEND

● **Aldeburgh marine regatta and carnival:** Today, children's lollipop hunt, lord mayor's garden party 6-8pm. Tomorrow, from 11am, mini-marathon, country dancing, children's events. Songs of praise at 6pm. Art and craft show. Monday, swimming races and land sports, RNLI land-sea rescue demo in the morning. Carnival entries judged at 2.30pm, crowning of queen and procession from 3pm followed by carnival, Chinese lanterns and fireworks from 8pm and a disco. Fun fair open all three days. Aldeburgh, Suffolk.

● **St Catherine's fair:** Medieval day with jugglers, minstrels, strolling players, children's entertainment. St Catherine's Area, Frome, Somerset. Today.

● **Riddlesden fun day:** Stalls, barbecue, children's games, fair and pony rides. Riddlesden Hall, Bradford Road, Kesteven, West Yorkshire (0535 607075). Today, 1-5pm.

● **Emmetts country fair:** Radio show in the morning, craft stalls, demonstrations, country dancing and jazz throughout two days. The Nature Conservancy Council (NCC) has the job of advising the government on environmental issues. The energy department is keen to stress it has "taken on board" such advice.

● **1990 Spectacular:** To celebrate airborne forces' fiftieth anniversary, arena events, sideshows, parachute and helicopter displays, bands and RAF dog display team. Nostell Priory, Doncaster Road, near Wakefield, West Yorkshire, (0924 863 892). Tomorrow, 10am-5pm, £2.50, child £1.

● **Seawatch Sunday:** Skuas, Shearwaters and other marine birds and possibly seals and porpoises should be seen. RSPB, Bampton Cliffs Nature Reserve, near Bridlington, Humberside. Tomorrow 9am-4pm, £1, child 50p.

● **Bournemouth kite festival:** Take your own kite and learn stunt flying techniques. Hengistbury Head, Bournemouth. Tomorrow, 10am-6pm, free.

● **Holday steam weekend:** Free train rides, freight train demonstrations. Iron Ore Mines Sidings, Ashwell Road, Cottesmore, Leicestershire. Today, tomorrow, 11am-5pm, £1.50, child 75p.

● **Viennese night:** The Royal Philharmonic Pops Orchestra, followed by fireworks. Audley End, near Saffron Walden, Suffolk. Tomorrow, gates open 6pm, concert 7.30pm, £6.50 and £7.50 (0898 202023).

● **Victorian navy days:** Recreation of life aboard the first iron battleship, HMS Warrior. HMS Warrior, Victory Gate, Naval Base, Portsmouth (0705 291379). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm, £3.30, child £1.80.

NEXT WEEK

● **Arundel festival:** Arts festival including open-air Shakespeare production, orchestral and choral works, exhibitions, fireworks and fringe entertainment throughout the town. Arundel, West Sussex. Wed until Sept 2 (0903 883690).

● **Open air jazz pops:** Thursday, Acker Bilk and his band; Friday, Spike Robinson, Scott Hamilton and George Chisholm; Saturday, Humphrey Lyttell, Helen Shapiro, Monty Sunshine and Axel Zwingenberger. Leeds Castle, Maidstone, Kent. Thurs, Fri, Sat, 7.30pm, £9.50. Box office (0622 35203).

JUDY FROSHAUG

Breeding

Koi, the weight in gold fish

THE ultimate status symbol in Japan is a prize-winning koi pool. Koi is the Japanese word for carp, but not just any old kind. In a country where breeding the fish has evolved into an art, it has been known for an exquisitely coloured specimen to fetch £250,000.

This was paid by a koi keeper a few years ago for a 32in long red and white kohaku, one of about 13 highly prized koi colour types, used for breeding. Others include the red and black hiutsuri and the pure white parachina. Many koi devotees say the tinsu kohaku is the most coveted. This is also a white fish, but with a red circle on its forehead.

Richard Morgan is among the first in Britain to experiment with breeding koi commercially, but he says: "Nobody this century will succeed in producing koi to the Japanese standards."

Britain's warmer summers are proving conducive to koi-keeping and building up the young fish for their first winter. Mr Morgan is working towards acquiring brood stock, which involves an outlay of at least £5,000 a fish. The more routine stocking of lakes, aquariums and garden centres around Britain with 500,000 more common native fish each year, such as carp and tench, makes venturing into deeper koi waters possible.

Next spring Mr Morgan will visit Japan for the first time to see the best of formal outdoor koi pools for himself, obtain stock and pick up whatever tips he can.

State-of-the-art koi pools seldom hold fewer than ten fish, which can be tamed by their owners to feed from the hand. Koi live to 25 years in ideal conditions.

Since opting for the fish course at agricultural college, Mr Morgan



Going for gold: Richard Morgan and a kohaku from his koi pool

has been coming to terms with one precept learnt there — that no one can really call himself a fish farmer until he has lost a million fish. Mr Morgan hopes it will not be his koi which slip through the safety net.

A female about 2ft long can produce between 200,000 to 300,000 eggs but in natural mating conditions only 5 per cent of these are likely to become fingerlings, as the little fish are appropriately called once they reach the length of a finger. "When farming them you can look at, perhaps, a 30 per cent success rate, but out of that you may get only one fish in a thousand that would make show quality," Mr Morgan says.

At the beginning of the year he separates male and female fish. Both get plentiful feeding and about mid-April to May they are introduced into one pond where, although separated by a perforated screen for four to five days, they can see and smell each other.

Once a female is ready to drop her eggs, she is anaesthetised so that they can be physically stripped out. The eggs are treated with milt (sperm) from two males, in case of sterility in one, and after hatching in troughs the tiny fish are fed for their first five days on egg yolk sieved through muslin. "At this stage they are just half the length of a drawing pin," Mr

Morgan says. For a further four to six weeks they are fed on live plankton and after that, in the pond, they can be given pelleted high-protein food. In a natural pool the fish double their size every year.

Koi are also available from Israel, China and America but these are rather more common types, koi polloi often costing a few pounds from garden centres. Japanese koi need to be kept in special pools with actively filtered crystal-clear water and no plants. Such a pool, 30ft by 20ft, might cost around £15,000 to install.

Cyprinids, the family to which koi belong, need warm water to grow, as well as a lot of care. They should not be fed in winter unless the pool is heated. Summer feeding normally begins around March and once the temperature rises above 10C.

Humans are the biggest predators and many koi keepers have to install sophisticated anti-theft devices to protect their fish.

SANDY BISP

● Further information from Richard Morgan, Avon Aquaculture (0608 61109), and the British Koi-keepers' Society, 316, Bourneville Park Road, Southam, Banbury, Essex, S32 5LY. The Internet Encyclopedia of Koi (Salamander Books, £20.97) is a good reference work.

Going with the natural grain

Assets

The furniture maker Rad Segt is deep green, at least in his philosophy. "I'm very in awe of the way trees grow," he says. "I've always found their natural lines timeless and peaceful to look at. They're not at all like other kinds of superficial designs which go out of fashion."

Trees are the inspiration for the organic furniture which Mr Segt and his partner, Barnaby Scott, make to commission at their workshop in Oxfordshire. Their path to the decision to establish their company, Waywood, four years ago, was winding.

Mr Segt studied botany at University College, Oxford, while Mr Scott graduated in forestry and agriculture. Whereas Mr Scott is self-taught in furniture design, Mr Segt took a course in carpentry and joinery. His first commission was a set of stools for a London wine bar where he played jazz guitar between classes. Yet even this first order embodied his philosophy that art should be usable and sculpture functional.

The Waywood partners work closely with clients to develop ideas. "My own feelings on what we should be doing with the planet are very strong," Mr Segt says. "And more people seem to be realising that the shapes and imagery which trees provide are disappearing. Introducing these elements into furniture helps to retain them and bring them into the home. Our corporate clients as well as our private buyers tend to be the kind of people who want things to last for life."

Waywood's organic-looking pieces include a table, at about £1,600, a set of six chairs at £500 each, a sculptured chest, £600, and an elm bookcase, £1,400. Latest designs include a combined television and VCR cabinet, for about £2,500, and a dining table, £2,000 (all prices plus VAT).

All the furniture is made of temperate, not tropical, wood from Britain and Europe. Elm, oak, yew, sycamore, American and English walnut, burr elm and fruit woods like apple are typical of the timber chosen for its colour, texture and grain.

"Sources of timber are difficult to establish," Mr Segt explains. "We like to use wood from sustainable sources - properly grown and harvested forests or storm-damaged trees. We have used tropical timbers in the past but it is of great concern to us that what we use should not have been wantonly removed from the world's endangered rainforests. We look for supplies from properly managed, tropical forestry operations which are still rare but must, we feel, receive encouragement from timber users."

John Makepeace, another furniture designer, says that timber remains the world's most important renewable resource and the most energy-efficient structural material. His branchy-backed chairs and tables, with tree trunk-like plinths, are a direct response to commissions from clients interested in bringing the natural environment into their homes.

"I've always been intrigued by designs which draw on nature for their inspiration," he says.

Originals: Martin Jones, falconer

Clothes for a killer

MARTIN Jones will spend most of the coming weeks flying his peregrine falcon at grouse in Scotland, and the rest of the time making the "furniture" that is a mainstay of the sport - bird hoods, lures, blocks, bells and falconers' gloves and gamuties.

"When I first started in this business, I went with a suitcase full of the gear I make and sat in the foyer of the Dorchester Hotel, in London, in order to meet Arab customers," he says. Since then he has supplied many royal families in the Middle East. London's leading gunsmiths are among his customers and he also runs a mail-order business from his home in Gloucestershire.

Falconry is becoming increasingly popular in Britain and there are now 6,000 keepers of raptors, or birds of prey (anything from a kestrel up), compared with a few hundred about 20 years ago.

Constant care and attention to the smallest details are vital, as a falcon can be worth £1,000. A too-tight hood, even in the softest leather, could mean a damaged bird.

The traditionally shaped hoods are exquisite as well as practical. Beautiful plumes on the more elaborate hoods are deceptively workmanlike, the feathers designed as handles. Hoods often incorporate throat straps to ensure that no shafts of light can enter to unsettle the bird.

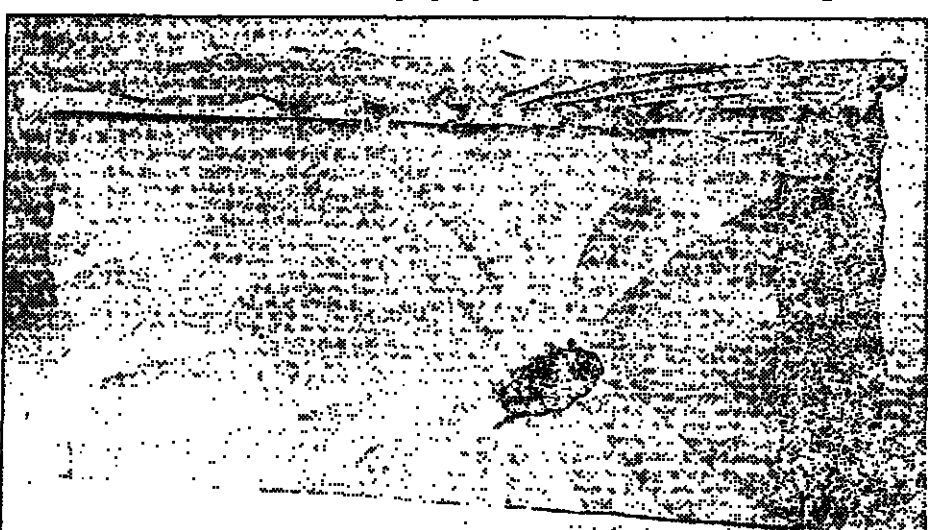
Falconry accoutrements have evolved over 6,000 years to the epitome of simplified efficiency, and are not particularly expensive when compared with the equipment needed for other field sports, Mr Jones says. "You are talking about £200 a bird, at the most."



Rad Segt working on a wych-elm chair: "We like to use wood from sustainable sources - properly harvested forests or storm-damaged trees"



Nature study in wood: cedar throne for two (left) by John Makepeace, and a sculptured chest with natural hole in the wood, by Waywood, £600



Nature study in wood: cedar throne for two (left) by John Makepeace, and a sculptured chest with natural hole in the wood, by Waywood, £600

"Wooden furniture has been handled in an industrial way in recent years and this is at odds with its origins and character."

Mr Makepeace's workshop, in a 16th century manor house in Dorset, specialises in the use of English hardwoods - oak, ash, cherry, yew, sycamore, holly and mulberry - chosen for their distinctive grain and colour. His designs are made up by a team of craftsmen and apprentices and although most are privately commissioned, some pieces are occasionally for sale.

"Britain is one of the largest net importers of timber. Yet we neglect our own woodlands," Mr Makepeace says. "Forestry is commonly thought to be uneconomic because we utilise so little for quality products and so much ends up as pulp."

Under Mr Makepeace's guidance the Parnham Trust, a registered charity, set up the School for Craftsmen in Wood in 1977 to provide an integrated two-year course in design, craftsmanship and business management.

The trust bought 350 acres of young woodland from the Forestry Commission and last year founded Hooke Park college to research and teach the practical skills of integrated forest management, design, manufacturing and enterprise development.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

• Waywood, Eynsham Park, Sawmill, Cuckoo Lane, North Leigh, Witney, Oxfordshire OX6 6PS (0993 882 7480).

• John Makepeace, Parnham House, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3NA (0308 862204).

Pots of interest in old Cyprus

Interest is growing in the artefacts of a civilisation that predates even the Greeks

SO MANY invaders have left their marks on Cyprus over the past 3,000 years that it is easy to overlook a purely Cypriot culture which pre-dates even the first Greek or Mycenaean settlements of the late Bronze Age.

I first became aware of ancient Cypriot pottery about three years ago at a shop in Camden Passage, north London, run by Ian Auld, a collector, dealer and former potter. He had a perky little jug decorated with a series of roundels or targets in reddish brown. It was obviously ancient, but did not seem quite Greek.

In fact, it was an Iron Age Cypriot piece, from the 7th century BC, and cost about £45.

The export of antiquities from Cyprus is now restricted, but there are so many Iron Age pots already in Britain that they have attracted little financial attention from collectors so far. Even the much earlier and rarer Bronze Age vessels and figures have been obtainable here until recently, some having been brought back during the 80 years of British occupation, as is evidenced by the collection built up by Desmond Morris, the anthropologist.

However, things are changing, and the better pieces are rapidly becoming more expensive. Last month, Christie's antiquities sale included several Cypriot items, and an attractive 8th to 7th century BC wine jug sold for £6,820. More of a bargain, perhaps, were one large and three small early Bronze Age (2700 BC to 1000 BC) flasks in red polished ware with incised decoration, which together fetched £1,100.

Collectors with limited resources would be wise to ignore minor breaks and restorations. It is still possible to get slightly damaged but otherwise satisfying items from dealers such as Mr Auld for less than £200. Since many of the earlier examples were intended for graves, a certain amount of wear is to be expected.

The first Cypriot pottery dates from the beginning of the early Bronze Age, and consists of a fascinating series of handbuilt scenic groups of figures milking deer, grinding grain, ploughing and baking, and various multi-unit ritual vessels. One of the hallmarks of Cypriot potters - their sense of fun - is already evident.

The first of the more common Cypriot wares are the "red polished" jugs, bottles, flasks, bowls and jars, which have incised patterns filled with chalk for contrast. Gradually, painted deco-



Prized: these jugs fetched £11,220 last month

oration was introduced, with the concentric target-like circles, and a variety of zoomorphic, notably bird-like, forms. The large two-handled jars are the most satisfying shape, with substantial necks on near-spherical bodies.

Painted wares came in new forms in the Middle Bronze Age (1500 BC to 1000 BC), notably shiny black pots painted with matt red, and off-white bodies decorated with brown or orange linear patterns. Typical of the late Bronze Age are tall jugs with tapering necks, jugs with cutaway spouts, and stein-like drinking vessels with thumbpieces. The earthquake in about 1050 BC virtually ended hand-building, although the typical Cypriot patterns and forms persisted through the Iron Age.

Technically, Cypriot pots are very sophisticated and still have much to offer a new collector.

HUON MALLALIEU

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTING

RESTORATION OF FINE FURNITURE

All aspects of furniture and clock case restoration skillfully undertaken by fully experienced craftsmen using traditional cabinet-making and polishing techniques. Wide spectrum of associated restoration trades undertaken by specialists including:

- Marquetry
- Gilding
- Carving
- Turning
- Brass Casting
- Caning
- Period and Modern Upholstery
- Fine Cabinet-Making

Regular Service to London and home counties



Member of the British Antique Furniture Restorers' Association

ANTIQUE RESTORATIONS

THE OLD WHEELWRIGHT'S SHOP, BRASTED FORD, BRASTED, WESTERHAM, KENT TN16 1JL
TEL: (0959) 63863

WEST LONDON Antiques Fair

Kensington Town Hall, Hornton St. W8

August 16 - 19

Thurs & Fri 11-5, Sat & Sun 11-5

88 Stands Selling Authenticated

Antiques over 100 years old

Adm: £4, Penman Fairs 0444 482514

At the Fair: 071 937 0063

ANTIQUE MAHOGANY PARTNERS DESK

5' x 39", CIRCA 1895, GOLD TOOLED GREEN LEATHER TOP £3,250

Smaller desks always available from £2,000

Lowes Furnishings

37-40 Churchgate

Loughborough

TEL: (0509) 212554

WANTED ANTIQUES

Furniture, Paintings, Oriental Rugs, all Ceramics, Sculpture, Bronzes/Vories, glass, silver, garden statuary, also Art Deco/Nouveau etc.

Auction estimates paid, single items or complete estates, any distance GB.

Miss Davies of London

071-267 3342

081-960 8938

CRITERION SALEROOMS

50 Essex Road, London N1 2BN

TELEPHONE: 071-359 5707

AUCTIONEER & VALUERS

We accept goods on Monday Thursday for sale by following Monday

10 minutes from the centre of London

Our weekly sales are on view:

Saturday 11am-3pm

Sunday 11am-3pm

Monday 10am until sale starts at 6.30pm

HOLLOWAYS

The Professional Antiquarian with a National Reputation

Complete service to buyers & sellers

BEST SALE OF ANTIQUES

5th SEPTEMBER

Places for items must be noted

Valuations by Insurance & Probate

48 Parsons Street, Bexley, Essex S16 8PP

TEL: (0225) 253197

Woods Green, Thurcroft, NR Rotherham

(2 mins Junction 1 of M18)

SPECIAL CATALOGUE SALE OF FINE FURNITURE, PAINTINGS & EFFECTS

MONDAY 27th AUGUST at 11am

Viewing Sunday 26th August 10am-5pm and on morning of sale from 8am

An interesting and important sale of English and Continental furniture and effects to include: a fine quality painted suitwood display cabinet and other Edwardian cabinets, Georgian bureau, bookcases and secretaries, a walnut chest on chest, writing tables, desks and side tables; a pair of rosewood chair bookcases, Georgian dining tables and set of chairs including bellows-backed, rope twist, ladder-backed, carved and gothic; also Windsor chairs and single mixed chairs, a carved oak French court cupboard, other chests and coffers, folding breakfast and games tables, two fine quality Victorian carved walnut sofas, a pair of William IV matching chairs, long, other carved Victorian armchairs and upholstered furniture; a good Georgian corner chair, three well carved Victorian chiffoffs, seven longcase clocks and other wall clocks, Victorian burr walnut wardrobe, mahogany robes and dressing screen, an Edwardian breakfast standing bookcase, a revolving bookcase and other good furniture. An Edwardian cylindrical photograph, musical boxes, a double bed and other musical instruments.

A fine collection of china including Doulton, Mowson, Worcester, Staffordshire, etc. glassware, metalware, silver, corianders and objects d'art.

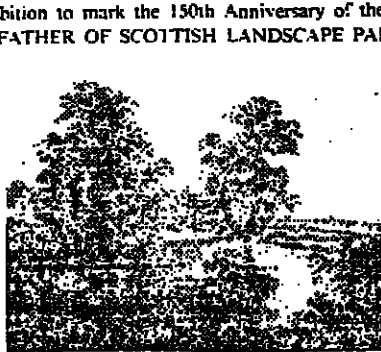
Quality of paintings, watercolours and prints.

TELEPHONE: (0709) 700005

Catalogues £3.75 including postage

ALEXANDER NASMYTH, R.B.A., H.R.S.A. (1758 - 1840) AND HIS FAMILY

An Exhibition to mark the 150th Anniversary of the Death of "THE FATHER OF SCOTTISH LANDSCAPE PAINTING"



Alexander Nasmyth - Ellen's Isle

at 67 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH

10th - 24th August 1990

172 WALTON STREET, LONDON SW3

7th - 18th September 1990

MALCOLM INNES GALLERY

172 Walton Street, London SW3 2JL

Edinburgh EH2 2JG

Tel: 071-384 0575/5559 031-226 4151

WEEKEND GILDING COURSES

Learn the ancient art of laying Gold Leaf

For details of these and longer courses, send large SAE to:

Peter & Frances Birmingham

65 St Johns Hill, SW11 1SX

Tel: 071 223 9192.

Re-leather your desk

Re-leather your desk

We supply

leathers in hand-

dyed colours with easy fitting

instructions. Choice of gold tooling

Past, efficient service.

SEND SAE TO: K. RESTORATIONS

24 FERRAND ROAD, LONDON NW11 6EE

TELEPHONE 071-482 4021

ARTS

STREET THEATRE: GLASGOW

Terror lurking out of doors

Jon Stock on *Logos*, the touring show of French street group Collectif Organon

Jim Coyle, a divisional commander of Strathclyde Fire Brigade, admits that street theatre is not his favourite type of entertainment. Firemen, at least, are expected to throw cold water on drama, particularly if it breaks out in crowded piazzas. The suspicion which the rest of the population harbours about street theatre is less logical. In France, it thrives in many forms, due partly to enlightened funding by the ministry of culture, but in Britain we still associate it with knife-juggling monocyclists wobbling around Covent Garden.

All credit to Coyle then, for sanctioning the appearance of Collectif Organon at Glasgow's third International Street Festival. The French company has recently terrified Europe with its thrilling show, *Logos*: theatre's most determined effort yet to bump off an entire audience.

Streetbizz, the organisers of the festival, knew that *Logos* would challenge Britain's strict notions of health and safety. So, first they decided to invite the Strathclyde fire brigade (and *The Times*) to see Collectif Organon perform in Utrecht, Holland. All are now happy that, with one or two modifications, the show can be put on safely in Glasgow.

Collectif Organon, a group of 35 performers who have never been seen in Britain, live communally in northern France. The French government pays the group subsistence money and often finances its travel abroad.

The group likes to arrive at a venue at least one week before their show, thus allowing the performers time to select a suitable area of wasteland on which to construct a vast, film-set village out of junk metal and wood, collected by the local council over the preceding months. In Glasgow, they will be steeled towards a derelict industrial site next to the high street railway station.

The "village" is bordered off with hundreds of old doors joined together — the company used over 750 doors in Utrecht, and is currently collecting frantically. Inside, people are free to wander around the sidestalls, which mix the darkest elements of Berlin cabaret with the candyfloss innocence of an Epcot funfair.

The late-night audience in

Utrecht was welcomed by a distracted man with a megaphone. Standing high up on a tilting wooden balcony, he directed a tirade of French abuse at passers-by, daring them to enter the labyrinthine construction (made out of doors) which towered behind him. Five people were chosen at a time, his random criteria a clear parody of some of the more severe nightclub door policies. "Are you two boyfriend and girlfriend?" he would ask. "Good. You can come up, you stay behind. Separation and then desperation. This is my club. I am the master. Ha ha ha!"

At one sidestall, "Chez Gino's", a mass of heavy-duty cable led from two throne-like electric chairs to a central, crackling fuse box. Gino announced that only one of the chairs was wired up. Unfortunately, he was not sure which one. He asked for a volunteer to sit in the left-hand chair. On the right, a straw-stuffed dummy stared out at the crowd. A girl stepped forward and took her place. The fuse box crackled again. There was something about the menacing electrical hum and Gino's manner — Dr. Faustus mixed with a dash of Tommy Cooper — that made the girl shift uneasily. Even though everyone knew it was a joke, there was a sense that something could go wrong. A cable with a switch was passed around, until someone took the role of state executioner. The dummy exploded, terrifying everyone except the girl, who looked across at the empty chair, sighing with relief.

Other stalls included a wall of death which got perilously close to the real thing, a wheel of fortune with no numbers, spun by women dressed as chickens, and a huge, Heath Robinson flying machine, consisting of a suspended harness and two birds' wings operated by arms. A volunteer would swing around helplessly, being showered with copious amounts of feathers.

The show's final, traumatic *coup de théâtre* cannot be disclosed without spoiling it for future audiences. Suffice it to say that there is a good reason why they need new building materials every time they put on *Logos*. "We can never complete the show," says one of the group. "We are always trying to find new ways to finish it, but it is not possible. In Glasgow, that show will be crazy."

● The Glasgow International Street Festival runs from August 11-26. Collectif Organon will be appearing on Saturday 18 August at 9.30 pm. For further information, contact Streetbizz on 041-204 4059.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: CABARET

Sultry songs and talent galore

Debra Craine talks to actress Honor Blackman, whose one-woman show about Yvette Guilbert opens next week

If Honor Blackman had been a flat-chested brunette, her career might have taken a completely different turn. But as a young, well-endowed blonde actress, she was snapped up by the cinema and went on to make her name as a star of the big — and small — screen. Now, more than 40 years later, she returns to the stage in the greatest theatrical challenge of her career, taking a one-woman show to the Edinburgh Festival next week. In *Yvette — the Life and Times of Yvette Guilbert*, Blackman brings to life the story of the French singer who rose from the gutter to become the toast of Paris café society in the 1890s.

To a solo piano accompaniment, Blackman's two-hour monologue intersperses narrative with some of the *risqué* songs that brought Guilbert to such fame that she was painted by Toulouse-Lautrec, and counted Freud, Verdi and Edward VII among her admirers.

The subjects of her songs were the drunks, the whores and the murderers of the *demi-monde*, the colourful low-life of turn-of-the-century Paris. The wit and innuendo of her songs appealed to everyone, no matter what their class, and, according to the actress, "although Guilbert wasn't respectable enough to be seen in public by the upper classes, she made masses of money entertaining in private homes."

The idea for a one-woman show began several years ago, when



Immortalised: Toulouse-Lautrec's vision of Guilbert

director Richard Digby Day suggested Guilbert as the ideal subject. Blackman was instantly attracted. "She was the most intriguing woman. She was really a unique character because there were a lot of other people doing *café concert* work then, but nobody crossed the boundaries that she did. She established an entirely new style. When she set about *café concert*, it was all tits and teeth where the women were concerned, and she brought a new satirical, witty strain to it."

Unlike that other great French singer, Edith Piaf, Guilbert was much more an actress, an observer of other people's lives, not a performer prone to public confessions. "What was so strange about her was that she apparently seemed to have a great straightness and purity, and that's why, when she sang the *risqué* stuff, it was so astonishing. She wasn't your oomph girl at all."

But like Piaf, Guilbert suffered a terrible childhood, and was raised by her mother in extreme poverty in Paris. Fame brought her wealth and security, although she never stopped working until her death in 1944, despite being dogged by ill health. "She was an absolute glutton for work," says Blackman. "She believed that anything can be achieved if you just try. She really was a very gutsy lady."

Immortalised by Toulouse-Lautrec, Guilbert nevertheless hated the way he painted her. "She had a great long neck and a turned up nose," Blackman comments. "She was very far from pretty, but she was furious with Lautrec because he made her look such a freak. She was also very conscious that she didn't have any bosom and would have loved to have had one. In fact, they say that part of the reason that she had a kidney problem was that she used to corset herself so tightly to give herself a bosom."

Physical attributes were also crucial to Blackman's own career, which began in 1946 when the actress, then a Rank "charm school" graduate, was typecast as an English rose in a succession of forgettable films. "Certainly in those days, being blonde and being bosomy was a tremendous advantage," she says. "All that was demanded of one was to be sexy and gorgeous. I was a sweetly innocent sort of person and always played English roses; it wasn't until *The Avengers* that I got all sorts of authoritative parts."



Honor Blackman: "In those days... all that was demanded of one was to be sexy and gorgeous."

The hit television series re-invented the actress as an assertive, leather-clad, judo-kicking Cathy Gale, an image which struck a popular chord in the Swinging Sixties. Then came *Pussy Galore* in the 1964 James Bond film, *Goldfinger*, and Blackman's career as a "tough lady" was set. Even today, 25 years later, the image is inescapable. "When they write my obituary, I've no doubt it'll be *Pussy Galore* and *Cathy Gale* they remember," she beams. "I used to be cross about it, but not anymore. If it made an impression, one must be gracious about it."

Her professional life could have taken a very different turn if films had not intervened. "I was asked to play Juliet by Peter Brook and I'd just signed a film contract with

Rank which I couldn't get out of, so I had to say no." Instead, she made *Daughter of Darkness*, and "for a piece of rubbish, maybe I gave up a career as a classical actress. I don't really regret anything, but it would be interesting to know."

Despite not having trained as a singer, and "having a voice like a foghorn", Blackman has done her fair share of stage musicals, starting on the West End in *The Sound of Music*, *On Your Toes*, and, most recently, *Nunsense*. For *Yvette*, she has worked hard on her voice, "practising in my padded loft to avoid upsetting the neighbours". The challenge of a one-woman show is to get through it without forgetting any lines, and Blackman admits to being terrified, although "the moment you start, there's so much to con-

centrate on you can't worry about nerves."

After the Edinburgh run of *Yvette*, the actress returns to television when a new series of the popular ITV comedy, *The Upper Hand*, begins filming in November. But, after performing *Yvette* on the road over the past two years, Blackman would like to bring the show to London. She is eager to return to the theatre. "In television, you have time to rehearse, and in films you get the most money. But I think the theatre will always win because it gives you the charge of immediate contact and because you get something back from it."

● *Yvette — The Life and Times of Yvette Guilbert* opens at the Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh (031-225 5756) on Wednesday.

One man and his dogged talent

Stunning the Punters/Lament for Arthur Cleary/Femme Fatale Marco's/Traverse/Assembly Rooms Edinburgh

CYNICALLY suspecting a combination of egomania and cheap-skating, many critics tend to steer clear of the one-man shows which proliferate on the fringes of the Fringe. However, *Stunning The Punters*, a triple bill of world premieres by Steven Berkoff, Robert Sproat and Dostoevsky, performed by George Dillon, is a compelling piece of theatre: make haste to Marco's Leisure Centre, dodging squash players and dubious smells to catch it.

George Dillon looks rather like Berkoff (gaunt, bony), but what makes him an ideal Berkoff interpreter is his ability to change

tone in mid-sentence, to catch the sudden falls from purple mock-heroism to raspberry-blowing bathos. The first piece, *Master of Café Society*, is the monologue of an out-of-work actor. The glorification of physical sensations, from the munching of a sandwich to the feel of phlegm in a Kleenex, and the scurrying descriptions of parents (mum repeating phrases like a cracked record, dad stuck to the TV like a fly to paper) cannot hide a growing sense of futility and desperation. Dillon, directed by Laurence Boswell, catches both the mocking, vital energy and the despair to perfection.

The title piece by Robert Sproat is a jaunty account of the outbreak of racism on an estate in north London. Dillon is an ex-skinhead with an engaging but forced grin. Sproat just lets him tell his story, about a graffiti spree which ends in the death of a skinhead, without comment. We are left to try to account for a monstrous hatred which seems almost unconnected with the people who express it, but which, Sproat suggests, is better expressed than expunged.

By far the longest part of the triple bill is Dostoevsky's *The Dream of a Ridiculous Man*. Consisting of many of a would-be suicide's redemptive dream of a world without sin, it is also the least obviously dramatic, but Dillon manages to express the Himalayan emotional range of Dostoevsky's character, from ecstatic wonder at an innocent world to horrified disgust at his own contagious imperfection. In a remarkable performance, No epitaph for this actor: let him be granted more work in better places.

My prize for best production on the Fringe goes to David Byrne for the most imaginatively staged and impeccably acted *The Lament for Arthur Cleary*, a new play by the young Irish writer Dermot Bolger. The play itself starts promisingly: Cleary is a migrant worker who returns to Dublin after ten years abroad to find it horribly changed. The scene moves from border post to disco to housing estate all effortlessly suggested in Ned McCullough's design by a single slatted bed (door); the dialogue has humour and the true pulse of life.

Unfortunately, after Cleary's meeting with 18-year-old Cathy (Hilary Fanning) in a disco (affectingly done), Bolger seems to write himself into a mauldin, all too Irish cul-de-sac of self-pity. Cleary (Brendan Laird) is too passive a character to command centre stage. But Owen Roe suggests the degeneration of modern Dublin in a splendid sequence of sinister cameos as border guard, disco bouncer and fawning, high-voiced rent collector.

Given the subject of a compulsive transvestite who hides his foibles from his wife for ten years, in *Femme Fatale* the Snarling Beasts resolutely avoid sentimentality, camp and psychoanalysis, and embrace an energetic behaviourism. Debbie Issitt (also the author) is the conventional housewife jabbering about Indian takeaways in mid-intercourse. Mark Kilmer, the husband drawn to his closet as if by magnetic force. Pain is not avoided; not explained. Both entertaining and disturbing.

HARRY EYRES

THEATRE
Danton's Death
St Bride's, Edinburgh

AFTER several years of distinguished service on the fringe, Communicado has been given a slot in the Festival proper and, on the evidence of its *Danton's Death*, fully deserves the promotion. Here is a company which has taken creative chances, used its theatrical imagination and evolved an idiosyncrasy that is all its own. The intellectual complexities of Buchner's play emerged more sharply in the National Theatre's revival a few years back, but the dark excitement of 1794 is better caught by Communicado.

That was the time when Robespierre and St Just rounded on the unruly liberal, Danton, and the rhetoric of revolution took on a deadly priggishness. Virtue and terror were declared inseparable; the correctness of the idea justified injustice and murder; private misconduct was political vice. The 20th century is not exactly unfamiliar with this sort of thin-lipped utopianism, which is presumably why Gerry Mulgrew's production sometimes seems to be occurring in a surreal talking-shop in a run-down section of the modern Left Bank.

Towards the back of the stage is a huge wooden crate, shed or chickenhouse, whose doors intermittently open to reveal tableaux inside: excited Jacobins crammed together, wildly debating the next step forward, or Danton and his

chums sitting bleakly on a bench, waiting to be guillotined. The stage furniture is coarse, stark and coloured grey, brown or black, as are the costumes.

Laurie Ventry's hoarse, unsmiling, waxen-faced Robespierre — a strong performance — comes in a grey suit and a black sweatshirt. Robert Carr's Danton looks like some big, honest, stolid steward from the Clyde-side shipyards, and unfortunately sometimes acts like one, too. The Falstaffian lust for life is missing. Carr's cry of "Oh lucky people when we can still get drunk" comes across as a motion for adjournment at a trades council meeting.

Yet he also exudes a rough power, and the evening as a whole, something more. Mulgrew has trimmed the text, but he has also added a strangeness to it, with the help of a cellist, choric shoutings and babblings from the cast, and a peripatetic singer. Frances Lynch, playing the last of these, wordlessly croons, and lets her voice dip from a shriek to a growl as she sits beside the guillotine, knitting. There are also times when she becomes the Passionaria of the declining revolution, leading the company in the Marseillaise and waving a tricolour, rather pointedly consisting of different shades of grey.

Mulgrew does not always avoid the main danger, which is drawing more attention to a bravura company than to Buchner, but his production is never less than striking and absorbing. Communicado has indisputably arrived.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE



Absorbing: Laurie Ventry (left) and Robert Carr in *Danton's Death*

SATURDAY

MAHABHARATA For those who missed the Peter Brook production, A & BC Theatre brings a complete performance of the Indian epic. The Netherbow (Venue 30), 43 High Street (031-556 5575), today, 10am (ends 5.30pm), £5.50 (£5.50 concs).

MEET THE AUTHOR Continuing the poor man's Book Festival, today Margaret Forster and Germaine Greer (sold out). Tomorrow, in the same time slot, William Boyd. Royal Museum of Scotland (Venue 43), Chambers Street (031-225 1915), today 11.15am (ends 12.45pm), £3.50.

SCOTTISH CONTEMPORARY MUSIC/ECAT Two concerts celebrating modern Scottish composers and including semi-staged theatre pieces. In the morning: David Horne's *Love's Labour's Lost* and Judith Weir's *A Serbian Cabaret* and Peter Maxwell Davies's *Mass Donnell's Masses*. In the afternoon: works including Lyle Cresswell's *Le Sucre du Printemps* and Peter Nelson's *Tournoiement des Singes*. Queen's Hall, South Clerk Street (031-225 5756), today 11am (ends 1pm) and 2.30pm, £2 and £5.

FULANI AND JUJUN Last chance to see the ice-cool rhythms of Fulani's Afro-jazz combined with the Nigerian performer Jujun's terrific piano playing. Café Costa (Venue 31), 3 Robertson Close, Cowgate (031-557 5849), today 12.30pm (ends 4pm), £2 (£2 concs).

MR BOOM The one-man band, a prime highlight of the Festival as far as children are concerned. Bristo Square Piazza (Venue 12), Teviot Row (031-225 5257/5258), today 2pm (ends 3pm), free.

GREEK TRAGEDY Mike Leigh's fascinating play about tension within the Greek-Australian community, performed by actors of the same background from the Belfry Street Theatre. An unpredictably assured production, although the leers sometimes veer towards caricature. Church Hill Theatre, Mornington Road (031-225 5756), today 2.30pm (ends 3.50pm) and 7.30pm (ends 5.50pm).

FRINGE BINGE Fringe comedy and music as picked out for stardom by BBC Radio Scotland. Tomorrow (6pm) the light entertainment boys promise a night of the best comedy acts. Fringe Club (Venue 2), Teviot Row, Bristo Square (031-225 5257, night 031-557 2091), today 3pm (ends 5pm), free.

TRISTAN AND ISOLDE The respected Jutland Opera from Denmark returns to Edinburgh. Sung in German. Usher Hall, Lothian Road (031-225 5756), today 8pm (ends 10.45pm), £5-£18.

METROPOLIS Gale performance of Fritz Lang's lavish vision of the future with the original music score performed live by Frank Strobel and Pierre Oser on piano. Cameo Cinema, 38 Home Street (031-228 4141), today 8.45pm (ends 10.40pm), £4.

THE NASTY GIRL After Nicholas Ridley comes director Michael Verhoeven with a scorching attack on his fellow countrymen and their hypocritical attitudes to the sins of the Nazi fathers. With Lena Stolze as the Bavarian girl who angers her town by asking too many questions about the past. Filmhouse Cinema 1, 88 Lothian Road (031-228 2688), today 8.45pm (94 mins), £4.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

Stephanie Billen's selective guide to the weekend's highlights at the Edinburgh Festival. Cabaret items by Carol Sarler.

The symbol ♦ indicates events that are part of the Edinburgh International Festival. Venue numbers refer to the map in the Fringe programme.

SUNDAY

FRINGE SUNDAY A Lark in the Park, as they call it. Get it all out of your system; turn up and be entertained by hundreds of Fringe performers. Holyrood Park, foot of the Royal Mile (031-226 5257/5258), today 1pm (ends 5.30pm), free.

JAZZ FESTIVAL PARADE Marking the start of the Jazz Festival, a lively parade with over 30 bands, plus dancers and vintage cars. From Regent Road, along Princes Street, ends at Grassmarket for a jam session. Today, starts 2pm, free.

SCOTTISH NATIONAL ORCHESTRA Neeme Järvi, music director of the Detroit and Gothenburg Symphony Orchestras, returns to the orchestra for this performance of Enescu's Rumanian Rhapsody No. 3. Acclaimed by American critics as "exceptional" and "delicate", it tells of a man married to a Frenchwoman and the reunion that occurs with his estranged daughter after he has a heart operation. The director will be interviewed by Derek Malcolm at the Filmhouse Cinema 1, 4.15pm. Cameo Cinema, 38 Home Street (031-228 4141), today 8.45pm (105 mins), £4.

AVIA Avoiding the Soviet tendency to sound like a cross between Genesis and Sting, Avia presents a show which applies the miming, dance and acting techniques of the country's theatrical avant-garde with a hyperactive mix of ska, electro and marching band music. Assembly Rooms (as above), today 11.45pm (ends 1.15am), £5 (£5 concs).

LICKERISH The National Student Theatre Company's *Darke* was a breath of fresh air at the Fringe last year. Now TV playwright Bill Gallagher provides the company's latest gnarly work, a "revenge comedy" in which "lickerish" has magical and disturbing powers. Well, it takes all sorts. Assembly Rooms (as above), today 2pm (ends 3.15pm), £5 (£4 concs).

DERIVES Philippe Genty's eagerly awaited mixture of dance, mime and near-nude puppetry. A spectacle fraught with psychological meanings to tease the intellect, but also promising an attack on the senses with its tricks of scale and perspective. Royal British Hotel, Prince Street (031-225 5756), today 7.30pm (ends 9pm), £5-£8.50.

MOSE ALLISON SEPTET Appearing with the Edge Condon Celebration Band and Circus Square Jazz Band tonight as part of the Jazz Festival's pot-pouri with the emphasis on traditional fare. Pianist Allison is one of the most distinctive of the performers, having formed his peculiar style out of a fusion of jazz, classical, pop and blues. Royal British Hotel, Prince Street (031-225 5756), today 7.30pm (ends 9pm), £5-£8.50.

MONTERRAT CABALLE The soprano performs pieces including Rossini's "Gran Dio, deh tu proteggi" and Debussy's "Beau soir", "Mandoline" and "Azai", "Pourquoi m'as tu quitté?". With Miguel Zanetti, pianist (031-225 5756), today 8pm, £5-£13.50.

NORMAN LOVETT Provided he can conquer a debilitating arrogance that assumes that absolutely everyone remembers who he is, we can look forward to masterful comedy in his unique, slowly-slowly style. Assembly Rooms (as above), today 8pm (ends 9pm), £5 (£4 concs).

THESE FOOLISH THINGS Bertrand Tavernier's English/French family drama marks Dirk Bogarde's return to the big screen after 12 years. Acclaimed by American critics as "exceptional" and "delicate", it tells of a man married to a Frenchwoman and the reunion that occurs with his estranged daughter after he has a heart operation. The director will be interviewed by Derek Malcolm at the Filmhouse Cinema 1, 4.15pm. Cameo Cinema, 38 Home Street (031-228 4141), today 8.45pm (105 mins), £4.

AVIA Avoiding the Soviet tendency to sound like a cross between Genesis and Sting, Avia presents a show which applies the miming, dance and acting techniques of the country's theatrical avant-garde with a hyperactive mix of ska, electro and marching band music. Assembly Rooms (as above), today 11.45pm (ends 1.15am), £5 (£5 concs).

For information on items, write to: The Times, Edinburgh Festival Listings, The Arts Page, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 5XN, fax 071-488 3242.

DON'T MISS NIGEL HAWTHORNE'S BLISTERING PERFORMANCE

NIGEL HAWTHORNE JANE ALEXANDER

Shadowlands

MUST END 8TH SEPT
PRIOR TO BROADWAY TRANSFER

"PACKED WITH EMOTIONAL BOMBHELLS"

QUEEN'S THEATRE Box office & Circle Seats 071-734 1166 NO
24 HRS 071-379 4444
A STOL MOSS THEATRE 081-741 9999/071-340 7200 BOOKING
SHAFTSBURY AVE, LONDON W1 GROPS 071-430 6123 FEES

SUNDAY'S TELEVISION & RADIO

COMPILED BY PETER DEAR AND GILLIAN MAXEY
TELEVISION CHOICE CHRIS PETT/RADIO CHOICE PETER DAVALLE

6.45 Open University: Managing Work — England 7.10 Where Has All The Granite Gone? 7.30 Wings: Cracks in the Forging 8.00 Flying in Birds: An Experimental Approach 8.25 Maths Modelling: Sandcastles. Ends at 8.50

8.55 Playdays: 15 Umbrellas. Multi-faith children's religious programme (r)

9.30 This is the Day. A simple religious service from a viewer's home in Barton Seagrave near Kettering

10.00 Bugs Bunny: All-American Hero. Cartoon (r). Wales: Our House 10.55

10.20 Choket: Glamorgan v India

10.20 Flint: Drop Out Feather (1992). A cartoon by Dick Van Dyke. A light tale of a man with a top job in an advertising firm who decides to drop out and take his daughter with him to live in Greenwich Village in New York. Directed by Don Taylor 11.55

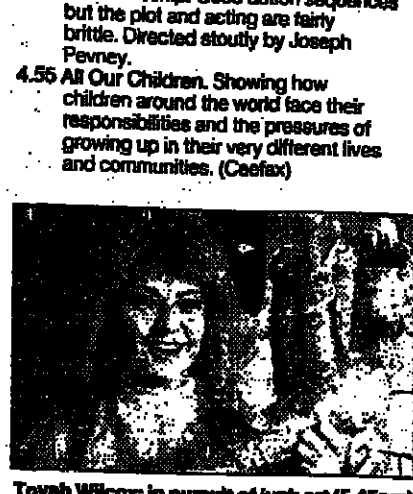
12.05 Sign Extra. An edition of *The Londoner* — *Fighting For Breath* — about a school for young asthmatics, adapted for the hearing impaired

12.30 Country File. Anne Brown tells the story of the village of Les Epesses in western France. A village of 150 people, which is attended by some 350,000 visitors 12.55 Weather

1.00 News with Moira Stuart followed by *Speaking Volumes*. P. D. James is joined this week by Kate Saunders, Roy Hattersley and painter Steven Campbell. Author of the week is John Fowles of *The Chetiv Book of Love Poetry*

1.45 The Pink Panther Show (r) 2.00 *EastEnders* (r). (Celex)

3.00 Film: Away All We Go (1956) starring Jeff Chandler. The tale of the captain of a small tramp steamer in the Pacific in 1943, doing a Captain Bligh in an effort to get himself the command



Tanya Wilson: In pursuit of junk art (5.45pm)

5.45 The Great Picture Chase. A CHOICE: Tanya Wilson, with 2500 to spend, takes a trip through alternative art, and encounters a mixture of old-style punk and New Age naïve. Suspicion of the commercial racket takes her in pursuit of junk art — a map of the United States made from the back pockets of old jeans — resuscitated and recycled art. There are chairs made of old telephone poles, and tables made from stumps rescued from building sites. The results are not art as such, more art as small business: part of the fun is guessing what they will charge. Three grand for five weeks' work makes one wonder, a sale, really, there wasn't something on a pile, really, a pile of old rope. Tanya ends up outdoors — her initial inspiration is Stonehenge — looking for "something from the real earth" and is last seen in a sculpture park looking for a bit of social comment and humour — you might wonder who gets the last laugh.

6.15 Lifetime: Cliff Michelmore and Lynette Litwack with the latest charity appeal. Robert Wilson, 55, makes an appeal on behalf of Homes for Homeless People

6.25 News with Moira Stuart. Weather

6.40 Songs of Praise from the Victoria Pier in Lerwick, Shetland (Celex)

7.15 All Creatures Great and Small. Slighted by a ten-year-old boy after the latter's dog dies, and James takes part in the village cricket match. All gentle, non-controversial stuff (r). (Celex)

8.05 Blackadder the Third. If *Fawlty Towers* was the best situation comedy of the 1970s, this was the best of the 1980s. Edmund Gurney enlists the help of his Scottish cousin MacAdder to save him from the clutches of the vicious Duke of Wellington (r). (Celex)

8.35 The Phantom of the Opera (1990) starring Charles Dance, Burt Lancaster and Toni Pol. First of a romantic two-part film, with Dance in the leading role as the Phantom, horribly disfigured, living below the Paris Opera House until drawn up to stage level by the beautiful voice of the wardrobe girl. Burt Lancaster takes some weight as the opera house manager. Directed by Tony Richardson. (Celex)

10.05 News with Michael Buerk. Weather

10.20 Everyman: Pedro and Blanco — Going Home. Tonight's programme follows the journey back to Colombia made by two boys (aged nine), who were adopted when starving babies by a Norwich couple and brought to live in this country (r)

11.00 The Days and Nights of Molly Dodd. Star Brown as the real-estate agent who is a specialist at getting into sticky situations (r)

11.25 You and 32. Alan Watson and Dick Taverne ask what 1992 will mean for your community

12.00 Matchmaker (r)

12.40am Weather

ITV LONDON

6.00 TV-am

6.25 Disney Family Movie: Little Spies (1986) starring Mickey Rooney, Robert Costanzo, Peter Smith and Candace Cameron. The first of a two-part film about a reclusive second world war hero who comes to the aid of a gang of youngsters who plan to rescue their adopted dog from a puppy kennel. However they find their original mission thwarted when they discover a dog-napping ring. Directed by Greg Beaman

10.15 The Campbells. Drama serial, set in late 19th century Canada

10.45 Link. Magazine programme focusing on the problems faced by the disabled. Robert Wilson talks to Mary Duffy, a successful photographer who was born without arms

11.00 Morning Worship. Family communion from St Michael All Angels Church, Harlesden, Middlesex

12.00 Heartland. A look at St Joseph's School in South Dakota which is run by priests of the Sacred Heart, who have Indian spiritualists alongside Christians

12.30 The Care Bears. Cartoon series

12.55 LWT News and weather

1.00 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather

1.10 An Invitation to Remember. Dame Flora Robson talks about her life and career

1.40 Red Nine. A behind-the-scenes look at the Red Arrows

CHANNEL 4

6.00 Transworld Sport (r) 7.00 Gardeners' Calendar (r). (Teletext)

7.30 Once Upon a Time. Life. Cartoon journey through the human body's organs and cells 8.00 *Early Bird* 8.25 David the Gnome 8.55 Ramona. Dramatisation of Beverly Cleary's three books about a mischievous eight-year-old girl

9.25 Band Baja. Asian music from some of the best young exponents

10.00 Japan: The Legacy of the Shogun. Series offering a British view of Japan (r)

11.00 Storywheel. For both deaf and hearing children (r)

11.30 Ely and Joos. Adventures of Joos, a 13-year-old boy, and Ely his ghostly friend 12.00 The Waltons 1.00 Land of the Giants. Cult science-fiction series

2.00 Film: Four Men and a Prayer (1938) starring Richard Gere, George Sanders, David Niven, William Henry and Loretta Young. Entertaining adventure mystery about four brothers who determine to conquer the name of their Indian Army officer father after he is court-martialed, cashiered and then murdered. Directed by John Ford

3.35 Magoo. Mishaps and comic chaos with the hilarious short-sighted cartoon character

3.50 A Moving Picture. Romantic dance fantasy which features choreographer Ann Ditchburn and a company of young dancers from the National Ballet of Canada

4.55 The Nat King Cole Show (b/w). This week's guest is Betty Hutton

5.25 News summary and weather

5.30 Athletics. Steve Ovett introduces the athletes at Gateshead — the venue of the GRC Clubs cup final

6.30 The Cosby Show. Successful American sitcom starring Bill Cosby and Lisa Bonet

2.10 Film: Further Up The Creek (1958) starring Frankie Howard, Thora Hird, David Tomlinson and Shirley Eaton. A comedy in the Carry On mould about the crew of an ancient Inuit boat that is on its last voyage before being handed over to a north Atlantic navy. Directed by Val Guest

3.50 Film: 2000 Women (1944, b/w) starring Phyllis Calvert, Flora Robson and Patricia Roc. Nazis intern British women, but they turn the tables and secretly help grounded RAF fliers to escape occupied territory. Suspense adventure directed by Frank Launder

5.30 A Kind of Living. Lacklustre sitcom set in Bolton starring Richard Griffiths and David Hamilton

6.00 All Clued Up. Game show hosted by David Hamilton

6.30 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 6.55 LWT News and weather

6.40 Day Out with Dennis. Singer Dana Scott down the Clyde on the last ocean-going paddle steamer, the Waverley

7.15 Jimmy's. More real-life stories following the day to day work of Europe's largest general hospital, St James's, Leeds

7.45 Forever Green. Drama series about the Boudis, who move to the country in search of a better life. Starring John Alderton and Pauline Collins (r) (Oracle)

8.45 News with Fiona Armstrong. Weather 9.00 LWT Weather

9.05 The Magistrate. Episode one of a three-part drama starring Franco Nero, Julia Blake, Catherine Wilkin and Dennis Miller. Paolo Pizzi is a Mafia-investigating magistrate whose

obsession with justice puts the lives of those close to him at risk. His wife is murdered after a leak of information and Paolo is forced to move secretly to Australia. Once there he starts a private investigation and searches for his only son. Continues tomorrow at 8.30pm. (Oracle)

11.05 Red Empire. Robert Conquest presents the documentary series examining the past 100 years of Soviet history

12.05am Stand-Up Reunion. A compilation of some of Ronald Reagan's funniest moments in front of audiences and the press during his presidency

1.05 ITV Chart Show (r)

2.05 Pick of the Week. The best from the regions

2.35 Film: Run, Simon, Run (1970) starring Burt Reynolds and Inger Stevens. Burt Reynolds gives a strong performance as an American Indian who returns to his reservation after ten years in prison for a murder he did not commit. When he takes over as tribal chief he is torn between his growing love for the white Indian agent and the ancient tribal tradition that expects him to avenge his brother's death. Directed by George McCowan

4.00 American Documentary: The Hidden Life of the Gulf of St. Lawrence. A look at the spectacular underwater activity where a subtle ocean has evolved influenced by the Labrador current

5.00 ITN Morning News with Anne Leuchars. Ends at 6.00

BBC 2

6.35 Open University: Introduction to Pure Maths — Heads and Tails 7.00 Technology: Energy From Waste 7.25 Introduction to Calculus: Vectors 7.50 Looking at Heat: Medical Uses 8.15 Origin of the Solar System: A Theory 8.40 The Health Service: Plans for Change 9.05 Introduction to Psychology: Autism 9.30 Inner City Story: Opposing Racism 9.55 Chemistry: Why Build Models 10.20 Biology: Form and Function — Transport 10.45 Maths: Groups Theory 11.10 Genetics: Patterns of Evolution 11.35 From Snowdon to the Sea 12.00 Mental Handicap: Moving On 12.25 Living Choices: Changing Places 12.50 Culture Shock

1.00 Ecology. Pests and predators

1.25 One In Four. Magazine for the disabled, with a look at access for airline passengers

1.55 Grandstand introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is (subject to alteration): 2.00 and 4.10 Golf: the final round of the NM English Open from the Belfry; 2.30, 3.50 and 5.50 *Motorway*: the Shell ACU Super Cup from Thruxton; 6.00, 8.00, 10.00 and 12.00 the IAAF grand prix from Cologne and the world championships and games for the disabled from Assen, The Netherlands; Wales: 2.00 and 4.10 Cricket: Glamorgan v India

6.30 One Man and His Dog. Second series in the singles title of the sheepdog championship

BBC 2

7.15 Rough Guide to the World. Magenta de Vine and Santha Guba visit Glasgow, European City of Culture 1990 (r)

8.05 The Late Show. Highlights of the arts and media programme, including the widely-praised re-hanging of the Tate Gallery and an interview with the Chinese writer and artist Han Suyin

9.05 Joseph Campbell and the Power of Myth. Tonight the distinguished scholar shares with American journalist Bill Moyers his views on the need for sacrifice in our lives, and the necessity of stepping out of our time occasionally for periods of self-communion. (Celex)

9.45 Gott. Highlights of the final round from the English Open at the Belfry

10.20 Moviezone

CHOICE: Alex Cox, presenter of *Moviezone*, in spite of his mania, the most natural presenter on television, a born actor (though in fact a film director) who has been responsible for moving the art of television presentation forward a stage, through having learnt to read an audience convincingly while at the same time doing something else, a rare accomplishment for which one suggests the nomination of a new BAFTA award called 7000 Feet. Cox's weirdly engaging style might best be described as ironic catatonic. He views are maverick and opinionated with none of the usual orthodoxes. He is just as likely to tell you what a film is not, rather than what it is, but he is always worth



Alex Cox maverick and opinionated (10.20pm)

listening to, and often the movies he introduces are the better for his opinions. Here he talks about *A Walk On The Wild Side*. At a guess, he will either devote his entire space to Saul Bellow's famous credit sequence, or not mention it at all. *Walk On The Wild Side* (1992) starring Laurence Harvey, Barbara Stanwyck and Jane Fonda. Adaptation of the controversial novel by Nelson Algren about a penniless farmer finding the girl of his dreams in a brothel. Unfortunately the girl is also the favourite of the lesbian owner of the brothel. The farmer then has an affair with an underage girl which is used against him by the madame to stop him claiming his chosen love. Turpid stuff, starting with a fantastic opening sequence but then determinedly going downhill from there. By the end of the film everyone has given up. Directed by Edward Dmytryk. (Celex) Ends 12.20

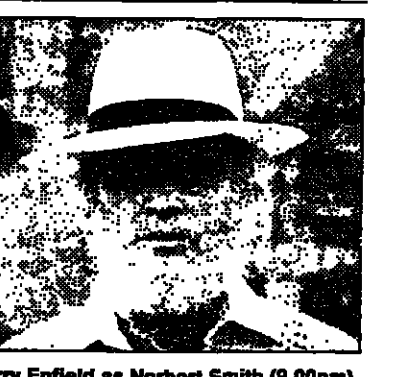
7.00 Equinox: Selling the Secret

CHOICE: The science fiction writer J. G. Ballard once pointed out how dystopian little lasting effect the space race has had on popular imagination. Nowadays it is an almost forgotten subject, with little or no glamour attached. Does anyone grow up any more wanting to be an astronaut? Equinox: Selling the Secret shows just how little glamour, as it follows the selling off of bits of the Soviet space programme. In the language of commentary-speak, "the end of the Cold War and the beginning of the commercial battle", and a pretty hard-headed battle too. "When Challenger exploded we were looking for alternatives," remarks a bearded-eyed German, in early to deal with the Russians. Even the Pentagon and the USAF, previously cooing over our workshops until recently top secret in spite of their poker faces, it's plain as pant that they're thinking: Klondike, USSR (Oracle)

8.00 John Brown's Body: The Wealth of Nations. Veteran socialist director John McGrath — remember socialist check-out workshops until recently top secret in spite of their poker faces, it's plain as pant that they're thinking: Klondike, USSR (Oracle)

8.00 John Brown's Body: The Wealth of Nations. Veteran socialist director John McGrath — remember socialist check-out workshops until recently top secret in spite of their poker faces, it's plain as pant that they're thinking: Klondike, USSR (Oracle)

9.00 Norbert Smith — A Life. CHOICE: Norbert Smith — A Life stands up well to a second viewing, and has — to go by hearsay — already acquired the status of instant classic. It sends up the television arts profile, the celebrity, the media, the showbiz, and here again himself, showing that he's game for a laugh, interviews (in a far impersonation of his own SBS style) Norbert Smith, whose career combined Larry-like acting



Harry Enfield as Norbert Smith (9.00pm)

with Burtonian boozing. Harry Enfield and director Geoff Posner show a remarkable ability to lampoon precise styles of English cinema — their Socratic advertisement single-handedly takes out both *Barry Enfield* and the school of Hovis commercial film-makers. Attention is taken even to get the correct colour grading and it is largely this care on all technical levels — Enfield's vocal mannerisms are spot-on — that turns an occasionally hilarious comedy into something memorable

10.00 Film: Send Me No Flowers (1964) starring Robert Hutton, Doris Day, Tony Randall and Clint Walker. Romantic comedy in which Hutton, mistakenly believing he has only a few months to live, tries to pass off his suspicious wife with a suitable potential husband. Directed by Norman Jewison. (Oracle)

11.50 Film: The Beat of Bolero (1988) starring Marielanda Marín, Marcos Muriel, Vladimir Torres and Sonia Berash. Venezuelan film based on the life of María Rodríguez, a woman whose greatest ambition is to sing in Caracas. With English subtitles. Directed by John Dickenson. Ends at 1.10am

RADIO 1

6.55am News 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 2.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 3.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 4.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 5.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 6.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 7.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 8.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 9.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 10.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 11.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 12.30 *The Bruno and Lesley Show* 1.00 *The Bruno and Lesley Show</*

● GOLF 25
● CRICKET 27
● RACING 28, 29

Wembley kick-off



KENNY Dalglish (above), the manager of the League champions, Liverpool, leads out his team against Manchester United, the FA Cup holders, at Wembley this afternoon in the Charity Shield, the traditional curtain-raiser to the English football season.

Liverpool will start the season as the favourites to win the first division again but the match today should provide an indication of whether Alex Ferguson, the manager of United, has built a team ready to challenge for the championship for the first time since 1967. **Page 26**

BOXING

Benn's bout

THE World Boxing Organisation middleweight championship will be at stake when the holder, Nigel Benn, takes on Iran Barkley, in Las Vegas, in the early hours of tomorrow morning. Bryan Stiles assesses Benn's chances. **Page 27**

TENNIS

Out of court



GABRIELA Sabatini (above) is confident that she will do well in the United States Open championships, which start at Flushing Meadow later this month, despite her loss to Stephanie Rehe in Los Angeles yesterday. **Page 26**

RUGBY LEAGUE

Welsh return

WIGAN meet Widnes in the Charity Shield in Swansea tomorrow, the first representative Rugby League match to be held in Wales since 1984. **Page 25**

BADMINTON

Leading role

STEVE Baddeley was appointed manager of the British Olympic team this week, crowning a remarkable year. Since April, he has won the European championship, regained the No. 1 ranking in England and become the national director of coaching for Scotland. Richard Eaton traces his career. **Page 28**

RACING

Riding high



STEVE Cauthen (above) yesterday confirmed that he has been offered the plum job of No. 1 European jockey to Sheikh Mohammed, Britain's leading owner for the last five years and arguably the world's most influential owner-breeder. Should Cauthen accept, the decision would scotch rumours of the former champion jockey's impending retirement from the saddle. **Page 28**

BOATING

Clear water

The clearance of many canals in England and Wales has opened the way for a revival in public interest. Keith Wheatley discovers why more than 500,000 people now make use of the inland waterways each year. **Page 30**

Mendis makes a messy Middlesex pay the price

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

OLD TRAFFORD: Lancashire beat Middlesex by five wickets

A MATCH which had seemed destined to end in black farce was instead resolved authentically and spectacularly last evening as Lancashire made a nonsense of an apparently intimidating target of 297, sweeping Middlesex aside to reach their second cup final of the season.

This NatWest Trophy semi-final ended 56 overs after its scheduled start and with 4.1 overs unused. The out-cricketer of Middlesex was shocking but nothing should detract from the authority of Gehan Mendis's 121 not out, his first one-day century for Lancashire.

Victory confirms Lancashire as the limited overs team of the year, whatever may happen in the final against Northamptonshire on September 1. It also keeps alive the unimaginable dream of a clean sweep, though this will die tomorrow unless Middlesex can do, then another favour by winning at Derby in the Sunday League.

Yesterday's mood this may be beyond them; despite their highest 60 overs score, they bowled and fielded like reckless millionaires and predictably ended bankrupt.

All of this seemed highly improbable when Manchester awoke to wet pavements and ominous clouds for the third consecutive day. Cricket before lunch was out of the question and any play at all looked remote. To a forlorn backdrop of a damp and deserted ground, contingency plans were drawn up.

Nobody relished the awful last resort of bowling at unguarded stumps to settle the argument, and as the morning progressed it emerged that another proposal was on the table. The respective chairmen, Bob Bennett, of Lancashire, and Mike Murray, of Middlesex, had met over dinner in London on Thursday, prior to the Test and County Cricket Board meeting, and between them they hatched the idea of a replay next Wednesday.

There is a precedent for this, also in cup semi-final and also involving Middlesex, 13 years ago. Tentative enquiries at Lord's brought a provisional sanction for the scheme, but both clubs needed to agree to be without their England players, who would be practicing at the Oval before the final Test.

This hypothesis kept the phone-lines busy between Old Trafford and Lord's to such an extent that the office staff may not have noticed that the sun was now shining brightly. Off came the covers, on came the umpires and a slightly incredulous announcer revealed to no more than 300 patient optimists that play would resume at 1.45pm, half an hour inside the deadline for completing the original match.

The greatest beneficiary of this return to normality was initially Desmond Haynes, who had spent the best part of two days in fear of having his 95 not out expunged from the records. He did not waste the reprieve, as one would expect from the man who would be an automatic No. 1 in any mythical world limited overs team.

Lancashire had 11 overs still to bowl, six of them from Wasim Akram, but Haynes was in no mood to be cowed by anyone. His

SCOREBOARD

MIDDLESEX	
D L Haynes not out	148
M A Raza b Alcott	16
M W Gattings b Watkinson	53
M R Ramprakash run out	45
K R Brown c Hogg b Wasim Akram	1
P P Downing not out	4
Extras (b 6, lb 11, w 8, nb 3)	28
Total (for 5 wickets, 60 overs)	296
Total (for 5 wickets, 55.5 overs)	
J E Embury, N F Williams, A R C Fraser, S P Hughes and N G Cowens did not bat.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-147, 3-289, 4-271.	
BOWLING: Alcott 12-3-40-1; De Freitas 12-0-52-0; Wasim Akram 12-2-25-1; Watkinson 12-1-52-1; Austin 12-1-50-0.	
LANCASHIRE	
G D Mendis not out	121
G Fowler b Cowens	8
M A Atherton b Hughes	34
N H Fairbrother c Downing b Hughes	48
M Watkinson c Downing b Fraser	43
Wasim Akram b Fraser	14
P A J De Freitas not out	2
Extras (b 1, lb 21, w 3, nb 4)	29
Total (for 5 wickets, 55.5 overs)	299
Total (for 5 wickets, 55.5 overs)	
W W Hogg, D Austin, D P Hughes and P J W Alcott did not bat.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-23, 2-83, 3-195, 4-255, 5-293.	
BOWLING: Cowens 12-1-49-1; Fraser 11-5-0-43-2; Williams 10-0-72-0; Hughes 12-0-58-2; Embury 10-0-54-0.	
Umpires: D J Constand and B J Meyer.	

century came of 148 balls and he faced only 29 more in scoring another 49 runs.

The first six overs produced 58 but the untimely loss of Ramprakash, to a typical one-day run out, and Brown, swatting at one of three short balls in an over from Akram, slowed the sprint.

Nevertheless, 24 came from the last two and Haynes, by now limping so badly that he was unable to field, crowned his epic innings with an astonishing whip through mid-wicket for four

against Akram's leg-stump yorker. Lancashire had not helped their cause with too many wides and no-balls in this brief session. But if this was a mite careless, Middlesex's subsequent cricket was catastrophic. Not only were misfields, missed chances and stray throws the norm, they also bowled with none of the rigid discipline we have come to expect from their highly experienced attack. The Lancashire batsmen were given comfortable whips on both sides of the wicket and the sowl on Mike Gattings' face became as much a feature of the next few hours as the set of his hands on hips.

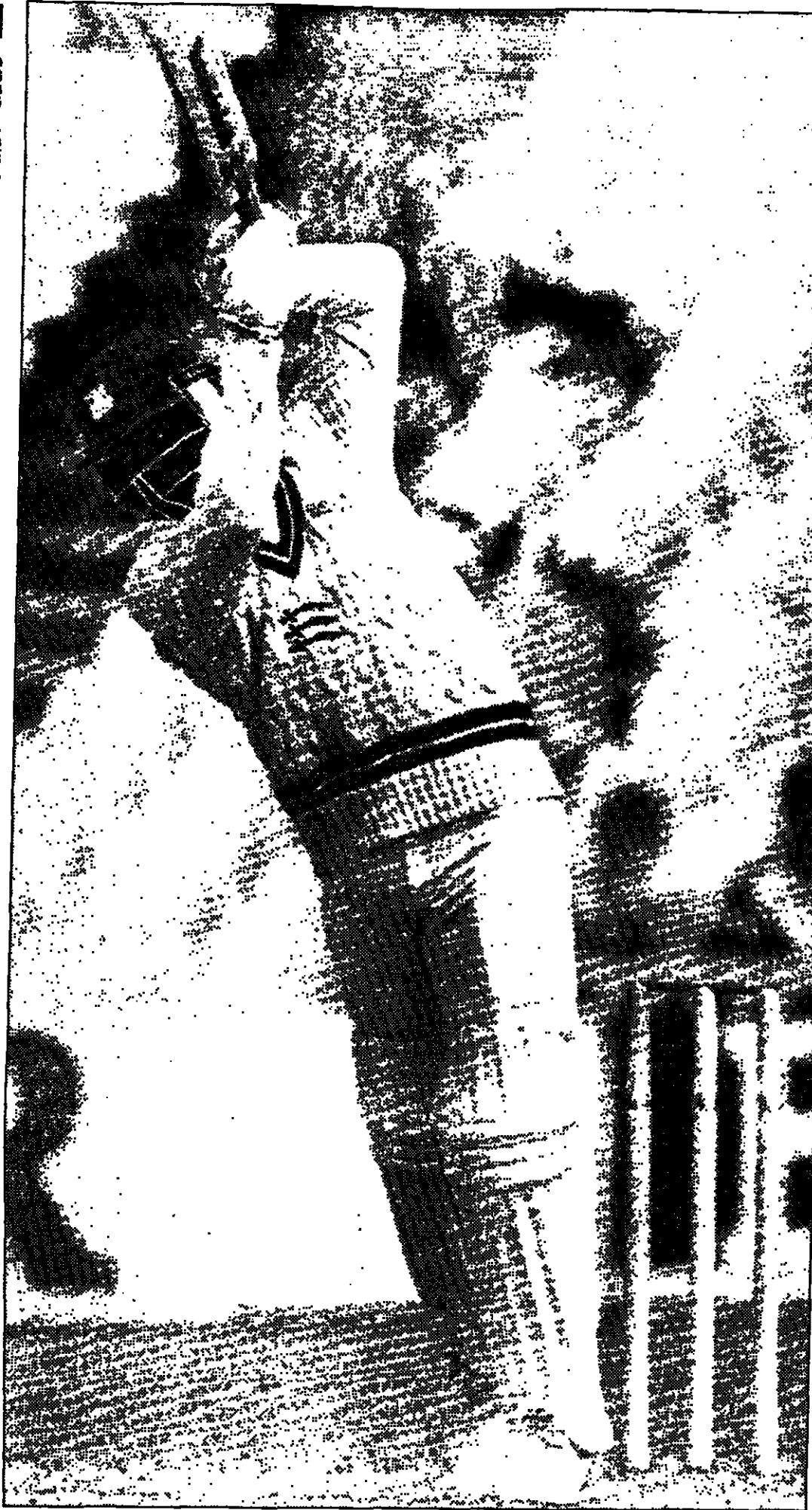
Cowens set the grim pattern by starting with two short balls which gave Mendis a start of eight runs. He did alone with the wicket of Fowler, bowled off the inside edge, and should then have removed Mendis for 15, Hughes dropping a straightforward catch at mid-off.

At 4.05pm on this third day we finally knew we had no need of artificial tie-breaks as Lancashire's innings reached the 20 overs mark. If it had rained at this point Middlesex would have won, but the clouds which had frustrated them for so long were now mockingly high.

Atherton was bowled by an inswinging yorker from Hughes, but in the next 17 overs Mendis and Fairbrother set up the result by adding 102. As they did so, the crowd built up to a peak of almost 6,000 and if they did not quite make the noise that Wednesday's full house would have managed, they had a pretty good try.

Fairbrother's 48 occupied only 52 balls and included a pulled six off Hughes, who extracted some recompense with his wicket. This brought in Watkinson, the first of many non-specialists in this side, all of whom can bat fearfully on their day.

Watkinson, man of the match in



Driving force: Haynes on his way to an unbeaten century for Middlesex at Old Trafford yesterday

Photograph, page 24

the Benson and Hedges cup final, is one of the cleanest strikers of the ball in the country and, of his three sixes, the memory will be a flat off-drive against Embury which passed within five yards of Hughes on the long-off boundary but gave him no chance.

They needed 111 from the last 20 overs and made 75 of them in 10. Watkinson was out with 28 still wanted. You do not often see a standing ovation for an innings

of 43, but this one was richly merited. He had faced only 40 balls and put the outcome beyond all doubt.

The Lord's hierarchy will give a helping hand to counties losing overseas players to next summer's West Indies tour. The Test and County Cricket Board will bend its own rules and permit one-year contracts instead of the mandatory two to compensate clubs such as Middlesex.

Rhapsodies over Cornish prodigy

SIMON BARNES
ON SATURDAY

would be content with what he did on Monday and Tuesday.

Victoria is unamused

Australian cricket is in the middle of a titanic row. This is, of course, nothing new — but this one has a curiously English feel to it. It concerns Darren Lehmann, aged 20, a chunky left-handed bat, and the state of Victoria. Lehmann has agreed a move from South Australia to Victoria and, in doing so, has roused deep and passionate feelings across the nation. The fact is that foreign players frequently play Sheffield Shield cricket, and that players often move from one state to another. A chap called Bradman went from New South Wales to South Australia in 1935, for example.

But Victoria never poach players, never play foreigners. The Bothams, the West Indian nuclear weapons, and the all-Australian turncoats have never been for them. They have carried out the Yorkshire role in Australian cricket — but now, after finishing bottom of the Sheffield Shield, they have changed their tune.

South Australia, the original poachers of Bradman, are furious, and have refused to clear the move. There is talk of Lehmann suing for restraint of trade; he says that no matter what, he will never

play for South Australia again. The transfer goes before the six Sheffield Shield states and will be put to the vote. There is open mourning in Victoria at the breaking of 88 years of tradition while Ian Chappell pours petrol on to the flames by congratulating Victoria for "waking up 54 years after South Australia" — a further reference to Bradman.

Lehmann made five centuries last season and is the youngest player to make 1,000 first-class runs in an Australian season. He is clearly a prize worth fighting for.

Ayrton Senna, perhaps the most extraordinary sportsman practising, would like to teach the Bible when he retires from motor racing. "I discovered the Bible two years ago," he said. "I found answers to questions I had always asked myself. One day I hope to be able to help people."

Demise of a defector

The recent months have been remarkable for the extraordinary tales of the eastern European sporting life that have emerged in the wake of the still more extraordinary political events. Now I hear allegations that an East German football defector was murdered by Stasi, the East German secret police. The claim comes from the magazine *Bunte* and concerns Lutz Eigendorf, formerly of Kaiserslautern and Braunschweig football clubs. He died in a car crash in 1983; the magazine claims that he was drugged by Stasi before he entered

his car, and that the drugs caused him to crash.

Golf is, as Churchill said, a game invented by the devil, played with instruments ill-devised for their purpose. This fact was rubbed in last week by a pair of golfing pros from Grimsby Golf Club in Middlesex. Sean Browne and Carl Williams decided to play a challenge match on their knees and one-handed. The terms of this departure from golfing decorum involved teeing off on their knees on the par four and five holes and playing every other shot one-handed. Browne finished with a proud 93 and Williams trailed in his wake with 105. "The longer irons were particularly difficult," Browne said.

Cricketing legs 11

More wondrous cricketing deeds. The No. 11 batsman is one of the great archetypes of sport, so this column salutes David Coverdale, last man in for Westow in North Yorkshire. In an evening league match (15 eight-ball overs each way), he came in to do his stuff and by the time he faced the last over he had scored six runs. So he decided to have a dirt at the bowling. He hit the first four balls for six, misused the fifth for a dot ball, and then hit the remaining three balls of the innings for three more sixes. That left him with 48 from a last-wicket stand of 52 and victory over Duncombe Park was assured.

East adds its might to West

WEST Berlin (Reuters) — East and West German athletics chiefs have agreed to send a united team to all international events from next January and the two National Olympic Committees are to unite this year, clearing the way for an all-German superpower at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

The West German Athletics Federation president, Helmut Meyer, and his East German counterpart, Gerd Schroeter, decided at a meeting on Thursday to unite their federations and compete as one national athletics team from January 1, 1991.

Yesterday, in East Berlin, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) president, Juan Antonio Samaranch, attended a meeting at which the East and West German Olympic chiefs decided to unite their National Olympic Committees by mid-November.

With officials from leading Olympic sports like gymnastics, boxing and swimming also moving quickly towards united federations, a powerful all-German Olympic team is virtually certain to take the stage in Barcelona.

"This is exactly the right decision," Meyer said. "But we can't simply add up the medals and call ourselves the greatest. Certainly, we will be much better off. The East German women are the best in the world and the men are world-class. It should stay that way."

The track-and-field move has the full backing of the International Amateur Athletic Federation president, Primo Nebiolo, who attended the discussions before last night's grand prize meeting. "From that day onwards [January 1, 1991], only one German team will be able to compete at international events and championships," Nebiolo said in a statement.

With German political unification expected next month and all-German elections in December, agreement for the sporting move needs only to be given the full support of the IOC for Barcelona to witness the first all-German team since 1964. "The IOC will accept any decision that is made by the two NOCs," Samaranch said.

East and West Germany entered combined teams at the 1956, 1960 and 1964 Olympics before competing separately for the first time in 1968. East Germany alone won the second-highest number of gold medals at the 1988 Seoul Olympics: West Germany gained the fifth-highest number.

While East German athletes admit that they will not be able to keep up their success in the long term, Barcelona looks like being the best chance for a united Germany to take on sport's superpowers, the Soviet Union and the United States.

The unification of German football was agreed last month, with East German clubs set to join West Germany's Bundesliga in the 1991-92 season.

ENTERTAIN IN STYLE AT THE MOST PRESTIGIOUS ARTS FESTIVAL EVER STAGED IN BRITAIN

THE SUNDAY TIMES
THE TIMES
Mozart
BICENTENARY FESTIVAL
DECEMBER 5 1990 - JANUARY 5 1991

Launched with a Gala Concert at The Royal Festival Hall, the festival will include performances by leading concert orchestras and opera companies in many of the country's most prestigious venues throughout December 1990 and January 1991.

In addition, concerts will be staged throughout the country in the superb settings of many of the nation's most spectacular National Trust and private stately homes: what better way to experience the grandeur of Mozart?

Keith Prowse Hospitality, the country's leading corporate entertainment specialists, are proud to offer you the opportunity to enjoy these splendid concerts in style.

Special packages, including the best seats in the house, champagne and canapés, dinner and souvenir programmes, are available exclusively through Keith Prowse. Alternatively, call to discuss an individually tailored evening in a National Trust Country House.

KEITH PROWSE
HOSPITALITY

Tickets for this unique Festival are not available to the general public until October, so call Keith Prowse Hospitality now to arrange a truly memorable event for you and your guests.

071 631 4920

Publicity stunts and the hard sell of rugby league cast a shadow over the recruitment of players to the professional code

Pitfalls that litter the Welsh road north

As I completed the Welsh squad's five-mile jaunt over the Gwaenol in a commanding last place, the Neath wing, Alan Edmunds asked me: "What's this about you and Fulham?" Lost for breath, and trying hard not to show it, all I could muster was a quizzical expression.

"Aye, on my life, it's the truth," he went on. "I just seen it now on CeeFax." "Never!" I said.

Now for those on the other side of Offa's Dyke, I should explain that "never" in South Wales rarely means never and is now more commonly used as an expletive. But the precise definition in this context may indeed have been a mixture of both.

I had begun to smell a rat long before I saw the CeeFax page with Ross Strudwick quoted as saying: "We have been holding discussions with Emyr since April and are confident he will join us soon." I wouldn't recognise the Fulham coach if he jumped out of

the wardrobe and bit me on the nose.

It seemed that the announcement of the second division club's move from Chiswick to Crystal Palace needed "spicing up" and the fabricated prospect of signing a Welsh rugby union international and an Australian league star (Wally Lewis) would do nicely. I laughed about the whole thing then, and still find it faintly amusing now. A sleazy stunt it was, however, and an episode which does not reflect well upon Fulham or professional rugby.

Neither is it an isolated incident. A current Welsh international swore to me that he only ever had contact with two League clubs and was at a loss to understand why he had been lambasted in the press by a third — this for breaking an alleged promise to sign for them.

Defamation of Welsh character clearly counted for little when the club concerned could mislead its supporters into thinking that it



COMMENT

ARTHUR EMYR

was in the market with the big boys, having muscle and money to spare.

Another worrying development is the emergence of unscrupulous self-appointed agents, who feed on egos and ignorance. Add to this a "hard sell" approach, which can confront a player "going north" for a look around, one spoke to me of going to the toilet, with a club official waving a signing form in hot pursuit. There are certainly many pitfalls for the unwary.

Most professional clubs behave quite honourably, of course. They simply have the pulling power of a

game which, in the words of league scouts living and working in Wales, is "taking off".

"Top players come north for ambition as much as for money now," one said. "The ultimate level for a rugby player in this country is Great Britain rugby league and Australian pros could play England at Twickenham in the morning, Scotland at Murrayfield in the afternoon and stuff them both."

The content may be debatable, but the tone is clearly confident and should serve as a warning — these guys have a glossy package on offer now and they are not standing still.

The saddest aspect of the Welsh exodus to league is that it could be

prevented. Jonathan Davies recently on tour in New Zealand as a Great Britain rugby league player saw a picture of himself in his amateur days in a shop window with the word "traitor" scrawled across it. It was a slur he did not deserve. Jonathan simply did what he thought was right for him. Were he allowed as an amateur to sign the five-figure endorsement deals with sponsors, sports goods manufacturers and newspapers that he commands so easily as a professional, then I have a feeling Welsh rugby would still be embracing his exceptional talents.

A former Welsh rugby union president told me recently that "Wales has always looked after its rugby players." He referred to legendary names from the 1970s now pursuing successful careers — Gareth Edwards and Barry John to name but two.

There is much truth in what he says, but I should qualify his statement — Wales has always looked

after those rugby players in a position to help themselves. Any young man with sound professional or academic qualifications allied to a high sporting profile will find doors opening ahead of him. The situation is much the same in England where the recent elevation of Brian Moore, a solicitor and international hooker, to a lucrative London post is a good case in point.

But what of the gifted player whose most educated and cultured asset is not a legal mind but rather a right boot? In Wales, he is largely condemned to the sales rep merry-go-round, struggling to meet targets in the face of increasing commitment to playing and training, selling a product about which he knows little and cares less.

The situation demands that he be given the opportunity to sell the one product he really knows, rugby football. Every Welsh squad member is a potential development officer for the game. An organisation such as the Welsh

Rugby Union, with annual profits running into millions of pounds, could easily create an infrastructure whereby each top player is offered work in a regime which embraces training requirements.

For a relatively small outlay, the potential returns would be enormous. Imagine the effect on children and their passion for the game if coaching clinics across the country were regularly attended by international players. Sponsorship, marketing and public relations are other avenues which could be explored to great effect. The game wins and the player needing direction has a place to go. Until such a time as there is dramatic change, the choice for many will remain the merry-go-round or the M6. Rugby union will always have that place in a Welshman's heart, but increasingly he has too much on his mind.

Arthur Emyr is a Wales and British Isles rugby union international and a television sports presenter.

SHINTY

Skye face threat from Fort William

By a CORRESPONDENT

SKYE Camanachd face top-class opposition for the first time since they won the sport's premier award, the Glenmorangie Camanachd trophy, in June when they play Fort William at Portree in the Thomas Ferguson memorial trophy today.

The Lochaber side, who are the holders, will wish to avenge their controversial defeat by the islanders in the semi-final of the Camanachd Cup, when they had three goals disallowed in the first half. Under Graeme MacMillan, their new player-manager, they should be able to use their fast, aggressive style of play to great advantage.

Ross Cowie, the Skye manager, will be anxious to prove that his side can end the predominance of Kingussie, who have taken almost all the major trophies in the past five years. A victory for either side will give them added confidence for the start of the Marine Harvest leagues on September 1.

A Bank of Scotland-sponsored match at Bishopbriggs today between Kingussie, the holders of the MacTavish Cup, and Oban Camanachd, winners of the Glasgow Celtic Society Cup, has been postponed due to an administrative failure to make suitable arrangements. Oban Camanachd have arranged to play Glenurquhart for the John Collier Cup at Ganavan.

The continuing efforts to reintroduce shinty to the islands of the inner and outer Hebrides take a further step forward today when an Islay select, made up of resident and exile players, sponsored by Bowmore Distillers, meets the Campbeltown-based club, Kintyre, sponsored by Springbank, another whisky company. Donald Woodrow, instrumental in founding Kintyre, has been successful in having the sport introduced to the schools on the island. Before the senior match a team of Islay pupils will play one from Campbeltown.

BOWLS

McLeish denied by Ritchie

SANDRA McLeish, of Danderhall, saw her hopes of victory in the Scottish singles championship disappear at Ayr Northfield yesterday when she was defeated in the quarter-finals by Margaret Ritchie, of Wishaw South (a Special Correspondent writes).

Ritchie led from the start and secured a 25-16 victory when she trailed the jack on the final end. Margaret Leitham, the former Scottish indoor champion, from the Burnbank Hamilton Club, is through to the last four after a 25-15 win over Eila McEwan, from Elderslie Wallace.

In the junior singles, Alison Jenkins, last year's beaten finalist, from Carron and Carronside, is through to today's semi-finals after a runaway 25-3 win over Emma Stewart, from Planefield.

RESULTS: Quarter-finals: Sandra McLeish (Wishaw South) 25, S. McLeish (Danderhall) 16; R. Wilson (Kenny) 25, I. Hadden (Montrose) 8; M. Leitham (Burnbank) 25, E. McEwan (Elderslie Wallace) 15; S. Mann (Bruid) 25, M. Reegan (Aberdeen) 4; J. Jenkins (Carron and Carronside) 25, E. Stewart (Planefield) 3; A. Brown (Craochar) 25, M. Brown (Galloway) 14; S. Loran (Livingston) 25, C. Henderson (Dumfries) 17.

Finals: April 24 Skelmorlie 14, Minnigwa 30; Isle of Wharmston 14, Whitburn 28; Carron Knowe 14, Ardrossan 21; Haddington 11, Troon 25; Milton 25, Campsie 22; Phylisoun 12, Muirkirk 22; Leslie 8, Thurso 15; Selkirk 22; Lochmaben 17, Westhill 15; Farnham 19, Bonnybridge 15; Queens Park 27, Juniper Green 11; Irvine Fullerton 25, Maudwell 15; Forth 30, Arnc 11.

Champions raise glasses to cup-holder



Welcome to the club: Tony Ashton, winner of the PGA assistants' championship, is toasted by previous title-holders, from left, Craig Defoy, Malcolm Gregson, Peter Alliss, George Low, Derek Nash, Ross Whitehead, George Marshall White and Gwyn James, winner in 1932

FOOTBALL

Incentives for Hampden's cast

WITH AN ironic twist, Hampden Park, whose future as Scotland's national stadium remains uncertain, today hosts an exhibition match to mark the centenary of the Scottish football week.

The Old Lady of Scottish football will stage a game between Andy Roxburgh's young Scotland hopefuls and a Scottish League team chosen by Jim McLean, the Dundee United manager. If special occasions demand special atmospheres, this event will have been helped by both managers who held a jovial court at yesterday's press conference.

Nevertheless, the match itself will be a serious matter since several players in the Scotland team have a chance to book a place in the Euro-

pean Championship qualifiers and the World Cup beyond that.

Pat Nevin, of Everton, comes into the category. "He is a crowd pleaser," Roxburgh said.

For such as the Rangers forward, Ally McCoist, there is the incentive to capture the place in attack recently vacated by his club mate, Maurice Johnston. He will be partnered by Robert Fleck, although it is probable that John Robertson, of Hearts, last season's leading scorer in the premier division, will make an appearance at some stage.

The Rangers full back, Stuart Monroe, is a surprise inclusion. His chance arose from a freak accident to Alex McLeish who injured himself

in the bath at Hampden. With McLeish out of action, Morris Malpas will captain the Scotland team.

Due to various call-offs, Jim McLean was unable to name his side, although he indicated that Hans Gillhaus, of Aberdeen, will start, as will Gary Stevens, of Rangers, and Robert Connor, of Aberdeen. He also indicated an appreciation of the nature of the occasion: "Scottish football needs a real boost and we want to put on a positive show if possible. It is essential to remember that people are paying good money to watch and I don't want to make it a farce by churning and changing too much."

"There will be a fair sprinkling of home Scottish players, as I think the game will be more meaningful for them than the one of foreign stars. Andy's team will have more to play for, we are only playing for pride, and a place in the next game which will be 100 years from now."

McLean has brought the Dundee forward, Keith Wright, into his pool, stating: "Being in the first division does not detract from his ability. He is still one of the top front men in Scottish football."

Hopefully Wright, along with other leading players, can provide a game to honour 100 years of Scottish League football and at the same time return some old-fashioned entertainment to Hampden Park.

SCOTLAND: Gorm: McKimmie, Malpas, Morris, McPherson, Collins, Nevin, McKitter, McCoist, McBry, Fleck.

BOXING

McAuley is full of confidence

By GEORGE ACE

DAVE McAuley certainly does not lack confidence. The International Boxing Federation (IBF) world champion from Larnie, who makes a mandatory defence of his title against Rodolfo Blanco, from Colombia, at the King's Hall on September 15, says: "I am the best flyweight in the world right now. I am unbeatable at eight stone and I am confident that I will score an overwhelming victory against Blanco."

McAuley will set an Irish boxing record by appearing in his sixth world title bout. But he may be well advised to temper his supreme confidence by recalling that in his first two world title bouts, which he lost, he faced another fighter from Colombia in Fidel Bassa and word from South America has it that Blanco bears close comparison to the former World Boxing Association (WBA) champion.

Blanco, aged 29, has boxed only once outside Colombia, when he lost to Myong-Woo Yuh in Korea with the WBA junior flyweight title at stake. Since moving up to flyweight, he has won his last nine contests, all inside the distance including three straight knockouts, which suggests he is not lacking firepower.

BOSTON: Steve Collins, of the Republic of Ireland, knocked out Fernin Chirino, of Venezuela, in the sixth round of a middleweight bout on Thursday (AP reports).

With the victory, which was borne largely out of a fierce fifth-round assault from which his opponent barely recovered, Collins lifted his record to 17-1, with seven knockouts, and earned the right to fight the winner of today's Iran Barkley-Nigel Benn match for the WBO middleweight title.

Stress injuries increasing among young

OUTSTANDING young footballers are increasingly prone to stress fractures, which sometimes require operations and can prematurely end careers.

Statistics issued by the GM National Football School at Lillleshall, which grows boys to become potential internationals, show that many possible recruits aged 14 are already suffering physical damage.

Prospective entrants to the school, which gives boys two years of intensive coaching while continuing their academic education in local schools, undergo exhaustive medical checks before consideration. Each year, a high percentage is referred to specialists, mostly with injuries related to stress fractures.

Charles Hughes, the Football Association's director of coaching, said: "Fifteen of the 16 boys this year were referrals. The number varies from year to year, but it is always a third or more, and they are usually stress conditions. We must investigate fully whether the boys are physically up to two years at the school."

"Some of the conditions are fairly minor, and the boys are still admitted to the school after treatment. But others are quite serious and in a number of cases we have had to advise boys to have spinal operations and in others not to play football again — ever," he said. "It is rare for the school to turn away more than 'one or two' would be students in any given year. However, Hughes said: 'If one or two of the best teenagers in the game are lost to football every year, over a 10-year period you might have been deprived of the equivalent of a full England team.'"

Even those whose stress fractures prove no barrier to a professional career can be

LOUISE TAYLOR discovers that early promise can be a bad thing for a budding football career

come susceptible to injuries in their twenties and thirties. "Suffering this type of injury as a teenager makes you vulnerable later on," Hughes said.

Stress fractures occur because skilful teenagers play far too many games at a time when they are still developing physically.

"At the moment our best young players are playing between 140 and 160 games a season," Hughes said. "This leaves literally no time for them to be coached, which contrasts with the Continent where there is more coaching and less playing. As a result players in the rest of Europe tend to be both fitter and technically better than our own."

In an attempt to reduce the problem, the FA is liaising with the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, and the two bodies convened a conference on sport injuries at Lillleshall recently.

It was chaired by Peter Edmunds, the medical director at the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh four years ago, who told delegates: "Many boys applying to Lillleshall already have significant injuries, sometimes stress fractures of the spine, which have not been recognised or appropriately treated."

"Some are serious injuries which will result in permanent disability later in life. I see some former footballers in their thirties with the osteoarthritic symptoms you would expect in 70-year-olds, and often the problem started when they played too intensively as schoolboys."

BASKETBALL

US concedes need for professionals

BUENOS Aires (Reuters) — After four years without a gold medal in international basketball, United States officials are negotiating with the top American professional league to release players for the national team.

"The US can no longer just throw a team out into international competition and expect to win a medal," Craig Miller, the assistant executive director for USA Basketball, said at the men's world championships here. "A lot of countries have caught up to our [basketball] knowledge," he said.

Miller said negotiations with the National Basketball Association (NBA), the leading US professional league, were concentrated on insurance for injuries to highly paid players and the selection process for players and coaches.

The United States, the defending champions, have reached the semi-finals this year. They have taken a medal in six of the 10 world championships to date, but they are no longer dominant. That slide has come with the emergence of new international powers, strengthened by an International Basketball Federation ruling in 1989 that allows amateurs and professionals to compete for their national teams.

While the United States has continued to use inexperienced college players, other countries have moved quickly to recruit their best players, many of whom now play in the NBA. The Yugoslav squad includes the point

guard, Drazen Petrovic, who plays for the Portland Trail Blazers, the centre, Viade Divac, of the Los Angeles Lakers, and Zarko Paspalj, who played for the San Antonio Spurs for most of this past season. Aleksandr Volkov, of the Soviet Union, joined the national team after ending his season with the Atlanta Hawks.

Five other players competing in Buenos Aires passed through the NBA: Jim Zet and Stewart Granger, of Canada, Rolando Ferreira, of Brazil, and Jose Ortiz and Ramon Rivas, of Puerto Rico. United States basketball rules banned NBA players from the US team in this world championship.

The presence of NBA players on the US team, however, is no assurance of victory. Ken Shields, Canada's national team coach, said: "All the good players in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union play with clubs, which means they are men playing against men all day. The way they play is similar to international competition — it's a rigorous, fast-paced endurance test — and there is nothing in the US that compares to prepare a team for world level ball."

The present US team, with nine players aged 20 years or younger, is also unaccustomed to the pressures of international play. Aleksandr Gomelski, the former Soviet Olympic team coach and now technical adviser to the coach, Valdas Garastas, said: "The US team is good but it is a very young team without much experience."

Opening the page on a new Olympic chapter



Turning over a new leaf: the mayors of West and East Berlin meet with Juan Antonio Samaranch (centre), president of the International Olympic Committee, to discuss merging the two Germanies. Report, page 23

FOOTBALL

Liverpool may find that United are anything but friendly

By Ian Ross

IF ITALIA '90 marked a renaissance of English football at international level, those attending today's Tennen's Charity Shield game between Liverpool and Manchester United at Wembley will be seeking tangible proof that success, like failure, can be subject to the domino effect.

Traditionally the new season's curtain-raiser is a source of disappointment. Players are lacking match practice, managers are prone to experimentation in a tactical sense and a competitive edge is often absent despite a passionate crowd and an imposing venue.

Understandably much is expected of today's meeting of Britain's most successful club and Britain's most glamorous club.

By virtue of winning the FA Cup, United have been ushered forward, perhaps prematurely, onto the threshold of a new era of success.

Liverpool remain the most potent force in English football and the lack of transfer market activity over the past 10 weeks simply serves to emphasise that, at present, the club is as stable as ever.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, and Kenny Dalglish, his Liverpool counterpart, unwittingly found themselves at odds yet again yesterday as they discussed today's game.

Ferguson anticipates a rugged encounter while Dalglish, for whom Wembley has become a second home since joining Liverpool 13 years ago, expects, or rather hopes for, a much more sedate affair.

"It is always a very big game when Manchester United play Liverpool and Wembley is a lovely stage upon which to play such a match before the season actually starts," Ferguson said.

"People have said this game is a friendly but I do not think that you can call any game against Liverpool, at any time, a friendly. There will be a great deal of spice involved. If you look back over the years, the Charity Shield has always tended to be a competitive fixture and both sets of players will be very keen to win this time around."

Typically, Dalglish employed his own distinctive form of tunnel vision, preferring instead to set his sights on next Saturday at his club's opening league fixture at Sheffield United.

"There is no extra edge because we happen to be playing against Manchester United. We shall treat it like any other pre-season friendly. This is simply our last game before the start of the new season," he said.

"Of course, we are looking forward to it. It is a good curtain-raiser for what lies ahead and it is another game to help improve the players' match fitness. I am sure that it will be a little more relaxed than it would be if it was, say, an FA Cup tie."

Ironically, after one of the money from this game will mean that we have now been able to pass on a total of £3 million to charity since 1974, when the Charity Shield was switched to Wembley.

This year's match is expected to go close to breaking all records for receipts - and numerous charity organisations will benefit.

Currie keen to join Oldham

BRIAN Clough yesterday cut his losses on another of his failed signings by selling forward David Currie to Oldham Athletic for £450,000. It was only eight months ago that the Nottingham Forest manager paid Barnsley £700,000 for the former Middlesbrough and Darlington player.

Currie made three full appearances under Clough, and eight as substitute, scoring one goal. He took just 15 minutes yesterday to agree a four-year contract with Joe Royle, the Oldham Athletic manager, and become the club's second record signing in two weeks.

Currie had set a broken previous record by paying Brighton £240,000 for the goalkeeper, John Keeley. But he is more than over £250,000 in credit on his transfer dealings this summer following the sale of Dennis Irwin to Manchester United for £250,000, the goalkeeper, Andy Rhodes, to Dunfermline for £100,000, and the £200,000 cut Oldham received from Andy Linighan's move from Norwich to Arsenal.

Currie starts the season under suspension and will miss Oldham's first two games in the second division.

The Republic of Ireland international forward John Byrne is likely to join Brighton and Hove Albion after a fee of £125,000 was agreed with his French club, Le Havre.

Luton Town have accepted a £180,000 offer for their midfield player, Mick Kennedy, from Stoke City, of the third division.

Glyn Barnett has a tie-breaker come for the short-range aggregate and the Queens prize-winner, John Bloomfield, has a shoot-out for the Gibson trophy.

RESULTS: All corners aggregate: 1. J. Langley (GB), 366; 2. J. Bloomfield (GB), 362; 3. J. Langley (GB), 358; 4. J. Bloomfield (GB), 354; 5. J. Langley (GB), 350; 6. J. Bloomfield (GB), 346; 7. J. Langley (GB), 342; 8. J. Bloomfield (GB), 338; 9. J. Langley (GB), 334; 10. J. Bloomfield (GB), 330; 11. J. Langley (GB), 326; 12. J. Bloomfield (GB), 322; 13. J. Langley (GB), 318; 14. J. Bloomfield (GB), 314; 15. J. Langley (GB), 310; 16. J. Bloomfield (GB), 306; 17. J. Langley (GB), 302; 18. J. Bloomfield (GB), 298; 19. J. Langley (GB), 294; 20. J. Bloomfield (GB), 290; 21. J. Langley (GB), 286; 22. J. Bloomfield (GB), 282; 23. J. Langley (GB), 278; 24. J. Bloomfield (GB), 274; 25. J. Langley (GB), 270; 26. J. Bloomfield (GB), 266; 27. J. Langley (GB), 262; 28. J. Bloomfield (GB), 258; 29. J. Langley (GB), 254; 30. J. Bloomfield (GB), 250; 31. J. Langley (GB), 246; 32. J. Bloomfield (GB), 242; 33. J. Langley (GB), 238; 34. J. Bloomfield (GB), 234; 35. J. Langley (GB), 230; 36. J. Bloomfield (GB), 226; 37. J. Langley (GB), 222; 38. J. Bloomfield (GB), 218; 39. J. Langley (GB), 214; 40. J. Bloomfield (GB), 210; 41. J. Langley (GB), 206; 42. J. Bloomfield (GB), 202; 43. J. Langley (GB), 198; 44. J. Bloomfield (GB), 194; 45. J. Langley (GB), 190; 46. J. Bloomfield (GB), 186; 47. J. Langley (GB), 182; 48. J. Bloomfield (GB), 178; 49. J. Langley (GB), 174; 50. J. Bloomfield (GB), 170; 51. J. Langley (GB), 166; 52. J. Bloomfield (GB), 162; 53. J. Langley (GB), 158; 54. J. Bloomfield (GB), 154; 55. J. Langley (GB), 150; 56. J. Bloomfield (GB), 146; 57. J. Langley (GB), 142; 58. J. Bloomfield (GB), 138; 59. J. Langley (GB), 134; 60. J. Bloomfield (GB), 130; 61. J. Langley (GB), 126; 62. J. Bloomfield (GB), 122; 63. J. Langley (GB), 118; 64. J. Bloomfield (GB), 114; 65. J. Langley (GB), 110; 66. J. Bloomfield (GB), 106; 67. J. Langley (GB), 102; 68. J. Bloomfield (GB), 98; 69. J. Langley (GB), 94; 70. J. Bloomfield (GB), 90; 71. J. Langley (GB), 86; 72. J. Bloomfield (GB), 82; 73. J. Langley (GB), 78; 74. J. Bloomfield (GB), 74; 75. J. Langley (GB), 70; 76. J. Bloomfield (GB), 66; 77. J. Langley (GB), 62; 78. J. Bloomfield (GB), 58; 79. J. Langley (GB), 54; 80. J. Bloomfield (GB), 50; 81. J. Langley (GB), 46; 82. J. Bloomfield (GB), 42; 83. J. Langley (GB), 38; 84. J. Bloomfield (GB), 34; 85. J. Langley (GB), 30; 86. J. Bloomfield (GB), 26; 87. J. Langley (GB), 22; 88. J. Bloomfield (GB), 18; 89. J. Langley (GB), 14; 90. J. Bloomfield (GB), 10; 91. J. Langley (GB), 6; 92. J. Bloomfield (GB), 2; 93. J. Langley (GB), 0; 94. J. Bloomfield (GB), 0; 95. J. Langley (GB), 0; 96. J. Bloomfield (GB), 0; 97. J. Langley (GB), 0; 98. J. Bloomfield (GB), 0; 99. J. Langley (GB), 0; 100. J. Bloomfield (GB), 0.

Mercedes hold Jaguar off front row of grid

By a SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

MERCEDES-BENZ yesterday took the two front-row positions on the overnight starting grid for tomorrow's sixth round of the world sports prototype championship in West Germany.

In the first qualifying session both the Jaguar XJR-11 cars comfortably beat the Nurburgring record but still were not fast enough.

The overnight pole position was clinched for Mercedes by Jean-Louis Schlesser, the world champion, and the second fastest time by one of the team's junior drivers, Michael Schumacher. In cold but dry conditions, Schlesser beat the record by no less than 2.78 seconds, for an average speed of 126.46mph.

Martin Brundle and Jan Lammers, unless they can improve their times this afternoon, look set to start their Jaguars from the second row of the 32-car grid in tomorrow's 300-mile ADAC Trophy race. "Most of the teams tested here a few

weeks ago, but we didn't do that," Brundle, a 1988 world champion, said. "We are missing it. We have a new suspension set up, and I'd say it's about 60 per cent right at the moment. But we can improve the cars a lot before the race."

The factory Joest Porsche, driven by Jean-Louis Schlesser, Frank Jelinski, unexpectedly out-qualified the Toyotas and Nissans yesterday, indicating that, like Mercedes, Porsche is making a big push on its home circuit.

The Mercedes drivers, Schlesser, Jochem Mass and Mauro Baldi, go into the Nurburgring race tied for the lead of the nine-round series, with 27 points each.

QUALIFYING TIMES: First session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Second session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Third session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Fourth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Fifth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Sixth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Seventh session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Eighth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Ninth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Tenth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Eleventh session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twelfth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Thirteenth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Fourteenth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Fifteenth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Sixteenth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Seventeenth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Eighteenth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Nineteenth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twentieth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twenty-first session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twenty-second session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twenty-third session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twenty-fourth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twenty-fifth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twenty-sixth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twenty-seventh session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twenty-eighth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Twenty-ninth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

Thirtieth session: 1. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:20.34; 2. M. Brundle (Jaguar), 1:22.78; 3. J. Lammers (Mercedes), 1:22.78; 4. J. Palmer (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 5. J. Jelinski (Mercedes), 1:23.64; 6. J. Mass (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 7. M. Baldi (Mercedes), 1:24.58; 8. J. Schlesser (Mercedes), 1:25.55; 9. B. Schneider (Mercedes), 1:25.73.

longest summer breaks in many years, both sides will be weakened by injuries. Liverpool will definitely be lacking Hansen (knee), Nicol (groin), and Molby (groin) and although Gillespie and Staunton have travelled to London it is unlikely that either will progress further than the substitutes' bench.

Although Beardsley lost his place towards the end of last season, he is likely to partner Rush in the Liverpool attack at the expense of Rosenthal, the Israeli international whose goal-scoring exploits while on loan persuaded Dalglish to pay Standard Liege of Belgium £1 million for his services.

United will be without Webb (calf strain), Martin (back strain) and Robson who is not fully recovered from his recent Achilles tendon operation.

Pallister, the mainstay of a defence which proved to be well nigh impenetrable during a recent tour of Ireland, may be asked to play despite having several stitches inserted in a facial wound last week.

Inevitably, Ferguson's major selection dilemma revolves around his choice of goalkeeper. Leighton, who was left out of the United side for the FA Cup Final replay against Crystal Palace, participated in the 1-0 victory over Glasgow Rangers at Ibrox on Wednesday night but is bracing himself for another embarrassing snub. Sealey, who signed a 12-month contract after replacing Leighton against Palace, is likely to be given the opportunity to establish himself as the club's first choice.

"I will not be making my decision until the morning of the match," Ferguson said. "I have played Les and Jim in sequence throughout our pre-season friendlies, and all I will say now is that I have a very competitive situation to deal with."

Both eyes on the future: James Fox drives a backhand at Eastbourne yesterday

SHOOTING

Bhargava in sight of the title

BRITAIN'S young shooters were aiming for leading honours in the Canadian championships in Ottawa yesterday as the grand aggregate, the overall championship, approached its final stage (our Rifle Shooting Correspondent writes).

On yesterday's standings, with one event to be added, Bob Best, of Canada, led with 739 points, from Anil Bhargava, 737, of India, and Garry Frost, 736, of England. Bhargava, 26, of Hertfordshire, a further two points back.

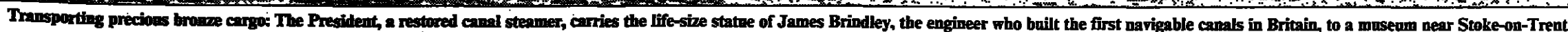
Jeremy Langley, aged 22, from Exeter, who had been leading earlier, lost points badly in the final event, the 10m air rifle, but he won two of the subsidiary aggregates, the all comers and the mixed aggregate, while Bhargava took the mixed aggregate.

Glyn Barnett has a tie-breaker come for the short-range aggregate and the Queens prize-winner, John Bloomfield, has a shoot-out for the Gibson trophy.

RESULTS: All corners aggregate: 1. J. Langley (GB), 366; 2. J. Bloomfield (GB), 362; 3. J. Langley (GB), 358; 4. J. Bloomfield (GB), 354; 5. J. Langley (GB), 350; 6. J. Bloomfield (GB), 346; 7. J. Langley (GB), 342; 8. J. Bloomfield (GB), 338; 9. J. Langley (GB), 334; 10. J. Bloomfield (GB), 330; 11. J. Langley (GB), 326; 12. J. Bloomfield (GB), 322; 13. J. Langley (GB), 318; 14. J. Bloomfield (GB), 314; 15. J. Langley (GB), 310; 16. J. Bloomfield (GB), 306; 17. J. Langley (GB), 302; 18. J. Bloomfield (GB), 298; 19. J. Langley (GB), 294; 20. J. Bloomfield (GB), 290; 21. J. Langley (GB), 286; 22. J. Bloomfield (GB), 282; 23. J. Langley (GB), 278; 24. J. Bloomfield (GB), 274; 25. J. Langley (GB), 270; 26. J. Bloomfield (GB), 266; 27. J. Langley (GB), 262; 28. J. Bloomfield (GB), 258; 29. J. Langley (GB), 254; 30. J. Bloomfield (GB), 250; 31. J. Langley (GB), 246; 32. J. Bloomfield (GB), 242; 33. J. Langley (GB), 238; 3

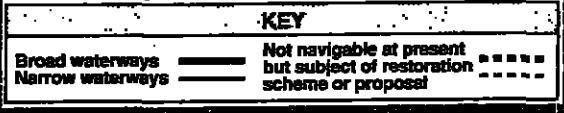
Penniless gamble on Vegas jackpot

TEXACO



Many canals in England and Wales are being rescued from a muddy future

KEITH WHEATLEY



● The festival is open to the public, August 25-27, 10am-5pm. Tickets £2.50, child and senior citizens £1. There is a 20 per cent discount for entry to the National Waterways Museum in Gloucester Docks.

Understandably, this is one of the most popular canals in the country, and it may be wiser to tackle it out of peak season, when shallow water and continual passing can make life trying.

City Editor John Bell

BUSINESS

Tensions push oil price to \$26.75

OIL prices moved closer to \$27 a barrel yesterday as tensions mounted in the Middle East, and hopes were dashed of an early meeting of Opec members to sanction production quota increases (Martin Barrow writes).

In London, October Brent rose \$1.30 a barrel to \$26.75, the largest one-day gain this week, to register a \$2 advance over two days with supply fears gaining strength in late trading. Volumes remained light.

In the absence of a major development in the Gulf, prices were being supported by Opec's inability to gain a consensus on the need to hold an emergency meeting to discuss the tensions and the possibility of awarding new production quotas.

Saudi Arabia and Venezuela, who have substantial surplus capacity, are pressing for a meeting to rubber-stamp increases and to co-ordinate new quotas for other cartel members.

The Saudis have capacity for an additional 2 million barrels a day, while Venezuela could increase daily output by 700,000 barrels. Iraq and Kuwait together accounted for more than 4 million barrels.

Iraq yesterday accused Saudi Arabia of causing oil shortages by preventing its tankers from loading at the Iraqi pipeline at the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

The 89,188-deadweight tonne Iraqi-flag Al Fao arrived off Yanbu early on Thursday, but was refused entry to the terminal at the end of the pipeline.

It is the second tanker to be turned away since the United Nations imposed a ban on oil exports from Iraq. On Monday, the 155,211-deadweight tonne Iraqi tanker Al-Qadisiyah was refused entry and has been waiting offshore.

Shipping sources in Saudi Arabia said there were now four tankers waiting off Yanbu in London, energy analysts believe oil prices could rise to \$30 a barrel next week as the prospect of an open conflict moves closer.

Chris Perry, an analyst with Gironzente Gilbert Elliott, said: "Iraq's agreement with Iran means it is not going to step down. Bush has got to do something before US voters begin to lose interest. The panic is beginning to push oil prices higher."

THE POUND

US dollar
1.9185 (+0.0205)
W German mark
2.9711 (+0.0046)
Exchange index
95.3 (+0.4)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1678.9 (-46.0)
FT-SE 100
2176.9 (-45.2)
New York Dow Jones
2617.33 (-64.11)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
26786.72 (-762.72)
Closing Prices ... Page 37

Major indices and major changes Page 34

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 15%
3-month interbank 15 1/2%
3-month deposit bills 14 1/2% 14 3/4%
US Prime Rate 10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 7 49/64%
30-year bonds 97 1/2% 97 1/4%

CURRENCIES

London: New York
£ \$1.9185 £ \$1.9200
£ DM2.9711 £ DM1.5495
£ Sfr2.9711 £ Sfr1.2525
£ ¥110.865 £ ¥10.245
£ Yen283.07 £ Yen147.49
£ Index 95.3 £ Index 93.4
ECU 50.68540 SDR 107.27310
£ ECU1.43567 £ SDR1.37429

GOLD

London Fixing
AM \$410.50 PM \$410.60
Close \$409.25-409.75 (£213.30-214.00)
New York
Comex \$410.20-410.70

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Sep) \$29.35 bbl (\$27.05)
Denotes latest trading price

TO PLACE YOUR ADVERTISEMENT IN THE TIMES

TRADE ADVERTISERS
TEL: 071-481 1978
ADVERTISING FAX NO.
071-481 9313
TELEX 525688
PRIVATE ADVERTISERS
TEL: 071-481 4000
MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

Sterling boost as inflation stays at 9.8%

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT AND COLIN NARBROUGH

INFLATION held steady at 9.8 per cent last month, surprising the City, bringing relief for the government and allowing the pound another good day on the foreign exchange markets.

A jump to 10 per cent had been expected, but a fall in seasonal food prices and summer sales of clothes and household goods, limited the rise in the retail price index to 0.1 per cent in July, the smallest monthly increase for a year. This took the RPI to 126.8.

But the underlying picture remains worrying, as the impact of higher oil prices following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait will only appear in the RPI data for this month. The government's current favourite measure for core inflation, which excludes mortgage interest payments and commu-

nity charge, showed annual inflation rising to 7 per cent from 6.9 per cent.

Keith Skeoch, chief economist at James Capel, estimates that core inflation is still rising at about 0.5 per cent a month, roughly where it has been since mid-1989. His concern is that Britain, having failed to achieve improvement in the underlying picture, is now faced with rising oil prices.

"The figures suggest that inflationary pressures are as intense as ever," Mr Skeoch said, adding that this meant little scope for early interest rates cuts.

Glenn Davies, chief economist at Credit Lyonnais Securities, cautioned against reading too much into the July data.

He said that with seasonal food prices likely to bounce back, summer sales coming to an end and beer and oil price rises in the pipeline, annual

inflation had to climb to 10 per cent, or above this month.

An 8.6 per cent fall in seasonal food prices in July was the biggest drop for five years. A 27.5 per cent drop in the price of raw potatoes was a significant factor. Prices for alcoholic drinks were higher, as were some housing and motorist costs. But subsequent increases of up to 20p per gallon for four-star petrol will boost the RPI by 0.3 percentage points. Price rises are also anticipated for sugar, biscuits and some other non-seasonal foods, as well as for beer and postal charges.

The strength of the pound, which yesterday climbed to its highest in eight and half years against the dollar, should help keep the prices of imported goods down. Sterling continued to rise against both the mark and the dollar, sending the Bank of England's sterling index up 0.3 points to 95.3.

The continued weakness of the dollar dominated currency markets, despite the surprise fall in the American trade deficit for June.

After edging down further in overnight Far East trading, the dollar continued to slide against other leading currencies. It moved nearer 1.55 marks and sterling rose to \$1.9155, up 1.6 cents.

The trade deficit for June tumbled to \$5.07 billion, down \$2.7 billion from the revised May figure and was the lowest since June 1983. The low figure, which was not expected by forecasters, reflected trade before recent increases in the price of oil. Ironically, net oil imports fell 15 per cent to \$3.69 billion between May and June, alone narrowing the trade gap by \$630 million.

Exports also rose by 4.6 per cent between the two months to a record \$34.3 billion, indicating some sectors of output are stronger than other recent American economic data have suggested.

The American currency's weakness has been spurred by signs of a move into mild recession and the Federal Reserve Board's switch in emphasis away from fears of inflation. Further easing of monetary policy has been expected at a time when inflationary pressures brought by higher oil prices are expected, eventually, to lead to rises in interest rates in the stronger economies of West Germany and Japan.

The latest rise in American consumer price inflation, accompanied by upward revisions of recent money supply figures and the rise in oil prices have led to confusion over whether the Fed will reverse its stance at Tuesday's policy meeting.

Worries in American markets hit London

By JOHN DURIE AND MATTHEW BOND

AMERICAN financial markets were thrown into turmoil yesterday amid signs that the American economy is heading for a recession and because of the growing tension in the Middle East.

Shortly before noon in Wall Street yesterday, the New York Stock Exchange imposed controls on program trading as the Dow Jones industrial average slumped. By mid-afternoon the Dow was down 60.65 points to 2,617.9.

London equities opened lower in the wake of Wall Street's fall and carried on falling all day. The FT-SE 100 index closed 45.2 down at 2,176.9 and the FT-30 fell 46 points to 1,678.9.

UK inflation figures, which showed that the retail price index had risen by 9.8 per cent in the year to July, were ignored as dealers rushed to cover exposed positions before the weekend.

In New York, the dollar touched new lows against the mark at DM1.54 and posted slight gains against the yen. Oil futures were sharply higher, with the West Texas intermediate up \$1.03 to \$28.39 a barrel.

American markets ignored good trade figures released earlier in the day showing a 34.7 per cent fall in the American trade deficit to \$5.07 billion in June.

But following a 2.6 per cent fall in new housing starts in July to their lowest levels since 1982 recession, and a higher

than expected increase in consumer prices of 0.6 per cent in the month excluding food and energy prices, Wall Street is now very worried about the economy.

The Federal Reserve Board meets on Tuesday to consider interest rate cuts but in light of the inflation figures and the trade deficit Wall Street is not expecting any immediate cuts.

In London, selling pressure was described as heavy but there did not appear to be any panic selling. More than 500 million shares changed hands. Bill Smith, equity strategist at BZW, said: "Any optimistic view that people had at the beginning of the week has now evaporated."

As has become the pattern over the past fortnight, both oil stocks and gold shares benefited from the market's concern. BP rose 8p to 376p, LASMO rose 12p to 467p and Shell added 7p to 492p.

With Wall Street now setting the mood for world stock markets, shares with large American followings, or with substantial dollar earnings, were hard hit. Reuters Holdings, which fell 80p on Thursday, fell another 51p yesterday to 878p. WPP, the advertising agency which owns J Walter Thompson and Ogilvy & Mather, tumbled 61p to 483p. Glaxo fell 30p to 728p.

In Frankfurt, the DAX index of the leading 30 companies, fell 61.54 points, or 3.6 per cent, to 1,665.38, its lowest rating this year.

Trump deadline looms

From JOHN DURIE IN NEW YORK

THE future of Donald Trump's empire rests with the New Jersey Casino Control Commission's decision, due on Tuesday morning, over a deal between the Trump Organisation and its bankers.

A deal made in June, which gave Mr Trump, the New York property developer, \$65 million in new loans and suspended interest payments on \$850 million, is subject to the approval of the commission as it involves extra bank control over Mr Trump's casinos in Atlantic City.

The commission heard closing arguments yesterday in which the New Jersey attorney-general's office said it would "reluctantly urge approval" of the deal, apparently because it saw this as the only way to save the casino.

In the hearings, no one called for the deal to be rejected and while, on these grounds, the commission would be expected to approve the deal, this is by no means a certainty.

A report released this week by Kenneth Leventhal, the accounting firm, showed Mr Trump had debts of \$3.2 billion and a net worth, depending on which assets are sold, ranging from a negative \$294 million to a positive \$281 million.

These figures apply only to the casino operations and the commission is keen to ensure that casino licence holders have enough funds to maintain their operations.

Mr Trump's problems were compounded by the fact that revenue from the casinos has been insufficient to cover his interest payments. Figures for July show casino



Trump: awaiting the casino commission's decision

earnings for the 11 Atlantic City casinos down 14.3 per cent, making \$1.2 million less than they did a year earlier.

Tom Carver, the casino association chief, said: "The fact we did not have any growth in one of the major months for the industry is a cause of concern." National Westminster Bank

TT wins battle for Crystalate

NIGEL FARRON

By MARTIN BARROW



The winner is: Nicholas Shipp, TT joint chief, savouring victory yesterday

THE marathon takeover battle for Crystalate Holdings, the electronic components concern, has ended in victory for TT Group, the industrial holding company.

Five-and-a-half months after launching a hostile bid worth £34.4 million, TT yesterday declared the offer unconditional, claiming to speak for 56.06 per cent of its target, including acceptances in respect of 20.39 per cent of the ordinary shares.

"Our priority now is to return the company to profit," said Nicholas Shipp, joint chief executive of TT.

Crystalate suffered a loss of £900,000 at the interim stage and in the previous financial year profits slipped from £5.7 million to £2.9 million.

Mr Shipp said: "Three years ago Crystalate was earning profits of £7.14 million, yet turnover has not declined. The company says margins are improving but we shall have to see."

Despite the lengthy takeover contest, TT Group has claimed victory without actually increasing the value of its original offer, even though the Crystalate board recommended a rival bid from Vishay Intertechnology of America.

On March 30, TT's all-paper offer of seven shares for every ten Crystalate shares was rejected by the Crystalate board, which is headed by Lord Jenkin of Roding. A partial cash alternative was introduced in May when Vishay announced that it was preparing to launch a rival offer. Last month TT tabled a full cash alternative of 85p a share.

TT refused to improve its terms even though Vishay made a cash offer of 90p a share that was endorsed by the Crystalate board.

However, Vishay's hopes were effectively dashed when its bid was referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The American company made a final, unsuccessful attempt to thwart TT by pledging to offer 93p if it received commission clearance.

PowerGen team to begin bid

By OUR CITY STAFF

THE PowerGen management next week will signal the start of a probable two-way fight for the company with a formal letter to John Wakeham, the energy secretary, stating its intention to put together a buy-out plan for the company.

Hanson, which has expressed an interest in buying PowerGen, yesterday said past its initial informal deadline without tabling a bid. The government is now insisting on a firm offer by the end of next week at the latest. A decision on whether to go for a trade auction or a stock market float, the original plan before Hanson entered the scene, will be taken some time the week after.

Schroders, the merchant bank handling the sale, has not yet decided the exact form of any subsequent auction. There is a possibility Hanson will in effect be allowed three separate bids for PowerGen.

A first "underwriting" offer for the company would be followed by a second offer as part of an auction. But the potential bidders might then be allowed to amend their offers to take account of what their rivals say they will pay.

This arrangement would ensure that the highest possible price is paid for the electricity generator. But it might also bring further accusations that the government is favouring Hanson, particularly if it is given the option of trumping a management bid.

Dukeminster buy-back plan unveiled by Shohet family

By MICHAEL TATE, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

SALEH Shohet and his family want to buy back Dukeminster, the property investment company they brought to the market two years ago.

They are offering to buy out their fellow shareholders at 75p a share, the same price paid by investors when the company was brought to the

market in August 1988. The terms value Dukeminster, whose properties are located throughout Britain, but primarily in the Southeast, at £89.1 million.

Mr Shohet, who still speaks for 47.8 per cent of Dukeminster, says the property market downturn caused by the high level of interest

rates had made it impossible to achieve the profits growth expected by the City.

"We turned in brilliant results last year, but the market has now disappeared completely," he said.

He pointed out that to be anywhere near the profit figure that investors would hope for, "I would need to sell our best properties. I am not prepared to do that."

Figures released yesterday show that Dukeminster's first-half pre-tax profits have slumped from £3.5 million to £700,000 and there is a loss per share of 0.23p against earnings last time of 2.23p.

Mr Shohet, an Iraqi Jew, came to Europe in the early 1970s, and was based in Madrid before coming to London in the mid-1970s. Dukeminster was his second quoted British property venture. He sold his 20 per cent stake in Hampton Trust to the New Zealand-based Aurora group for about £20 million just days before the stock market crash in October 1987.

His proposal for taking Dukeminster private does not involve a normal bid procedure, but a scheme of arrangement under which outside shareholders will vote to have their shares cancelled in return for cash from Assetpeak, the Shohets' new private company. This method is cheaper, though, because it needs sanction in the court, may take a few weeks longer.

WPP Group baffled at collapse of share price

By MARTIN WALLER

SHARES in WPP Group, Martin Sorrell's advertising and media group, lost more than 10 per cent of their stock market value yesterday on reports of a determined seller on Wall Street.

The company said it was baffled at why the shares should tumble 61p to 483p the day after a "buy" recommendation from Neil Blackley, agencies analyst at James Capel, the broker. Sue Bailey, at Warbury Securities, has also issued such a recommendation. Furthermore, Warbury's agencies team says it regards the shares a buy at the new price.

The collapse in the share price started when an American institution sold shares in New York.

The institution is believed to have taken about 100,000

shares after a programme trade on Thursday night and found them impossible to sell in London.

The conflict in the Gulf and the generally poor state of the agencies sector meant no institution was prepared to take the shares at the end of the London account.

The collapse comes at an embarrassing time for WPP. The company surprised the market with better-than-expected first-half figures earlier this month, which helped to counteract earlier worries about its heavy gearing and dismal prospects for the advertising industry.

Mr Blackley said the collapse reflected a credibility problem for WPP. He thinks WPP's debts, currently £320 million, will be paid off out of cash flow in mid-1996.

Thousands seek return of deposits

Queensway's receivers under siege

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

CHAOS broke out yesterday among thousands of customers of Lowndes Queensway who have paid million of pounds in deposits for goods they have yet to receive.

Customers phoning Ernst & Young, the furniture stores' receivers, were given confusing information. Some were told to contact the shop where they had placed their order. But yesterday the shops were still closed.

Ernst & Young are battling with suppliers and credit card agencies in an effort to reopen the Queensway furniture and carpetland shops by Monday. The shops have been closed since Wednesday when the group went into receivership with debts of about £300 million. The receivers originally had hoped to reopen them today.

Customers phoning Ernst & Young were told to phone Queensway's customer services department. But it told them to contact the shops. One woman from Surrey was wrongly told by Ernst & Young that she had little chance of recovering any of her £180 deposit. A series of hotlines have been set up

for customers wanting information. Of the 11 telephone numbers given, however, only one was working yesterday, though it remained unanswered. The rest were either permanently engaged or were giving a number-unobtainable tone. The telephone lines are being manned by Ernst & Young staff.

Ernst & Young said lines were engaged because staff were working flat out answering enquiries. A spokesman said more than a 1,000 calls had been taken by 5.30pm on Friday. "It's like a dealing room down at Lowndes' Orpington head office," he said.

The confusion has highlighted the logistical difficulties involved in putting into receivership one of Britain's largest furniture and carpet groups.

Nigel Hamilton, one of the receivers, said the delay in opening the shops was due to three reasons. The receivers want to establish the exact value of stock in the shops, they are negotiating with credit card companies to allow customers to use cards to make purchases when the shops reopen, and they are negotiating with suppliers to keep the stores stocked.

Many of the group's suppliers had reserved title over the goods they were

supplying, which means that they still own the furniture.

Mr Hamilton said: "We have to make sure that we are allowed to sell the goods. We don't want to end up being prosecuted for selling goods the company does not own." Some suppliers are asking for their goods to be returned, others have given permission to sell.

A spokesman for Midland Bank, which co-ordinates Queensway's credit card transactions, said he thought it unlikely that an agreement would be reached on the credit card issue until Tuesday or Wednesday.

Queensway customers who have paid deposits look likely to get at least some money back, but there could be a long wait. The group's £15 million customer insurance policy is triggered by the winding up of the company that could take many months.

However, money is unlikely to be paid out until all claims have been received. In addition, the money available will be reduced by the cost of processing the claims.

Mr Hamilton said: "Even if there are only 25,000 claims, the cost of processing them will have to be met by the fund."

YJ Lovell warning knocks shares

By JONATHAN PRYNN

SHARES in YJ Lovell (Holdings), the construction and housebuilding group that failed in its £157 million hostile takeover bid for Higgs and Hill this year, fell 30p to 157p immediately after a profit warning related to the performance of its urban-renewal operations.

A statement from the company said that it was increasing provisions in its Lovell Partnerships Division to cover future losses, particularly in relation to major waterside developments which, in current market conditions, have lower prospective values and may take longer to sell than was previously forecast.

As a result, the company said, profits in the second half are only likely to match the £8.4 million before tax in the first half.

At the interim stage, the company had said that it expected second-half profits to exceed those of the first half.

The warning means a substantial downgrading of market forecasts for the full year, which had previously been in the £21 million-to-£23 million range.

It is also in sharp contrast to statements made at the time of the Higgs and Hill bid, when Lovell claimed it was a "balanced business" that was "able to maintain profit growth even in difficult conditions".

Anthony Hitchens, the chairman, said the warning followed a marked slowdown of housing sales in its urban-renewal subsidiary, which operates mainly in South Wales and the north of England.

Total housebuilding this year would be about 1,000 units compared with 1,350 last year. There had also been a 10 per cent fall in sale prices in real terms.

US bank charges to be increased

From JOHN DURE IN NEW YORK

AMERICAN bank customers will be forced to pay higher charges as a result of planned government moves to increase the insurance fund levy on banks to raise an extra \$1.1 billion.

The bank regulator, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, plans to increase the levy the banks must pay from 15 cents per \$100 of deposits to 19.5 cents. The increase which accounts for 7.3 per cent of total bank profits last year of \$15 billion is expected to be passed on to customers in the form of higher charges.

This means American tax payers will be hit by the cost of the \$500 billion savings and loans debacle estimated at \$1,000 for every citizen over the next 30 years and higher bank charges.

Earlier this year the levy was increased from 12 to 15 cents raising another \$850 million. The fund is used when banks collapse under a law guaranteeing bank deposits.

The move comes amid growing fears in America that the financial system is in poor shape ahead of the expected slow down in the economy.

While the bank sector is not in as bad a shape as savings and loans institutions, it is in a perilous state compared with previous recessions according to Moody's Investors Service.

America has 12,606 banks but only 44 have assets of more than \$10 billion and these account for 38 per cent of all bank assets.

Mr Charles Cramer, a Sherron Lehman Brothers bank analyst, said: "I'm not sure that the extra \$1 billion will be enough to cover bank losses if the economy does fall in to a recession."

The American Bankers Association said the banks would pay the increased levy but noted: "Further increases will place additional strain on bank earnings."

KIO transfers \$350m to Kuwait bank to ease liquidity

By NEIL BENNETT BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Kuwait Investment Office in London has injected \$350 million into the National Bank of Kuwait to save it from liquidity problems caused by the Iraqi invasion and the subsequent freeze on its assets around the world.

Meanwhile, the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation, the world's twelfth largest oil company, has confirmed it is negotiating to buy its oil from Saudi Arabia now that supplies from Kuwait have been cut off.

The KIO is reported to have made the \$350 million transfer so the bank can continue to meet its customers' commitments.

The National Bank has gross assets of \$12 billion, half of which are estimated to have been seized by

the Iraqis in the invasion. The injection has allowed the bank to continue operating while it decides on its future. The KIO continues to refuse to comment but was reported by brokers last week to be liquidating large lines of stock.

The bank has chosen London for new headquarters since its time zone allows it to keep in contact with its branches in New York and Singapore. At least five of the bank's directors, including Ibrahim Daboub, the chief general manager, who were on holiday outside Kuwait when the Iraqis invaded, are holding board meetings in the City.

A spokesman said the bank was going to find it difficult to continue trading in the long term but was looking at ways of achieving it. "No one is going to take the National Bank's name in the market for some time," KPC, which through its

international subsidiary owns three refineries in Europe, as well as 6,500 petrol stations, needs 420,000 barrels a day, worth £10.5 million, to run its operations. A spokesman for KPC, which has moved its headquarters to Bond Street in London, said he was optimistic the company would conclude the deal. Negotiations are being led by Rashid al-Ameiri, the chairman and Kuwaiti oil minister.

The spokesman said: "The Bank of England and other central banks have been very receptive to the situation and understood that the freeze of assets should not hinder our normal business."

"The Bank gave us its assurance on the telephone almost immediately. We are immensely impressed by what has been achieved so quickly."

The company is already making plans for its operation if the

occupation continues, only two weeks after the imposition of an asset freeze that temporarily threatened their business.

"We do have technical problems when our funds cross borders," said its spokesman. "Governments will be cautious. But we are treating the problems one by one and we will establish smooth procedures later."

The KPC had a revenue of 3.7 billion Kuwaiti dinars (£6.73 billion) and net profits of Kd341 million last year and is owned by the Kuwaiti government. The company started expanding Kuwait Petroleum International, its international downstream business, in 1983 with the acquisition of much of the European business of Gulf. Since then it has ploughed a large part of its retained earnings into expansion outside Kuwait, particularly the chain of Q8 petrol stations. The

National Bank has found its existence under the Kuwaiti asset freeze less comfortable, and is still forced to obtain Bank of England approval for each interbank transaction.

The bank is also finding it difficult to cash many of its international certificates of deposit through international clearing systems.

"The Bank of England fails to understand the problems of running a bank in a situation like this."

The bank needs a constant flow of liquidity to meet the withdrawals of its 4,000 London customers since the Bank of England's detailed procedure on the Kuwaiti asset freeze allows it to pay reasonable living expenses to Kuwaiti residents in Britain.

Initially, it limited withdrawals to £500 a day, but has since relaxed restrictions.

Nadir drops plan to bid for Polly Peck

By ANGELA MACKAY

ASIL Nadir withdrew his bid approach for Polly Peck, the fresh fruit and electronics company, last night after institutional shareholders indicated they wanted more than he was prepared to pay.

The withdrawal wiped 25 per cent off the market value of the shares. They plunged to a low of 305p and closed at 324p, compared with 402p previously. More than 18 million exchanged hands.

The International Stock Exchange panel of the committee on quotations has demanded an explanation of the week's events.

On Sunday, Mr Nadir, who chairs Polly Peck and is the biggest shareholder with 26 per cent, told a board meeting he was thinking of buying out the rest of the group because the City undervalued the shares.

That news sent them 50p higher to 448p and most analysts suggested he must pay at least 500p a share to gain control, valuing the whole company at £2.2 billion.

Mr Nadir's withdrawal has reinforced the impression that Polly Peck is a speculative stock that deserves the low market rating it has attracted.

Mr Nadir said: "Since the time of my letter to the board, I have received approaches from both significant institutional and individual shareholders who have indicated that they would not wish to see Polly Peck become a private company and wish to continue to see it progress and develop as a public entity."

"Therefore, I have decided to discontinue my approach made last Sunday and do not intend to proceed with the possible offer."

According to David Fawcus, Polly Peck's deputy chief executive, Mr Nadir had the finance to make an offer but it appeared he could not count on the support of enough shareholders to secure a mandatory 90 per cent. Funding was believed to come from foreign banks but not Citicorp, as had been speculated.

Mr Nadir also started to erect his Chinese walls within the company by appointing the boutique corporate finance house J O Hamlin Magna as financial adviser and Shandwick as public rela-

tions consultant to the prospective bid. Polly Peck retained Morgan Grenfell, in addition to Chartered WestLB, as its merchant banking adviser.

Mr Fawcus said the text of Mr Nadir's letter had been cleared with the takeover panel and said that Morgan Grenfell had been satisfied with Mr Nadir's explanation for his retreat.

Friends Provident is the biggest institutional shareholder with a 4.5 per cent stake, followed by Standard Life (3 per cent), Prudential and University Superannuation (2.5 per cent each) and Legal & General (about 2 per cent). Several more each own about 1 per cent.

Peter Silvester, investment director at Friends Provident, said: "We haven't put any pressure on Mr Nadir and have been prepared to keep an open mind until the bid was put on the table."

"However Mr Nadir would have detected that many of the institutional investors who are long-term supporters agree with him that the stock is undervalued and said to him that he could not afford to bid for the entire company."

Ciba-Geigy pessimistic as after-tax profits fall 12%

Basle CIBA-GEIGY, the Swiss chemical company, is taking a pessimistic view of 1990 after-tax profits of 12 per cent fall in after-tax profits to SwFr1.22 billion (£508 million) for the first half.

The company said: "For the entire year we expect the development in sales and profit to be somewhat under the previous year's levels, as in the first semester."

"Moreover, lower sales and at least equally high costs regularly depress profit in the second half."

It did not make a more specific 1990 profit forecast, but added that both sales and profit are normally much higher in the first half of the year than the second, owing to the seasonal nature of the agricultural business. Ciba-

Geigy's group net profit rose to SwFr1.56 billion in 1989 from SwFr1.32 billion in 1988.

The Swiss franc's strength against the American dollar, the yen and sterling hurt group sales in the first half, the company said.

Measured in Swiss francs, turnover fell 2 per cent in the first half to SwFr10.91 billion, although sales rose 5 per cent when adjusted for exchange rate fluctuations.

Switzerland's largest chemical group said the economic climate was more difficult in the first six months of 1990 than in the 1989 first half.

Weak growth in the North American vehicle, textile and construction sectors affected sales, as did structural problems in Latin America and eastern Europe. However, de-

mand was so brisk in some important markets that production bottlenecks held back potential sales.

High Swiss inflation meant costs increased more than sales, but steps to cut costs and boost productivity would certainly help improve results in 1991 and to some extent later this year, the company said.

Heini Lippuner, Ciba-Geigy's chief executive, said earlier in the year that slowing global economic growth and the strengthening franc would make it difficult to match last year's results, but had said this year's profit should match last year's.

Its Swiss rival Sandoz had already boosted sales 3 per cent in the first half and forecast its profit would at least match 1989 levels. (Reuters)

USSR to woo foreign firms

By GEORGE SIVELL

The Soviet government yesterday tentatively opened its doors to investment from foreign companies with a suggestion that they be allowed, for the first time, to establish wholly owned subsidiaries in the Soviet Union.

At present a foreign company wishing to do business in the Soviet Union has to set up a joint venture with a Soviet

organisation. A Tass news agency statement said that Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov had presented a bill to parliament that "envisages establishing enterprises fully owned by foreign capital on Soviet territory."

"It is impossible to move towards a market economy while the country is isolated from the world economy," Tass quoted Mr Ryzhkov as

saying. "One can no longer rely on joint ventures alone." The provisions of the new bill, to be considered by parliament at the beginning of September, were not made public and it was not known whether there would be any restrictions on foreign companies' operations.

Mr Ryzhkov's move is the latest piece in a package of open-market reforms.

Struggling Spectrum seeks £1m

By PHILIP PANGALOS

SPECTRUM Group, the USM computer equipment distributor, announced a financial restructuring package after group losses deepened at the halfway stage.

Kenneth Vere Nicol, executive chairman, said the company had conducted "a thorough review" of its business and "urgent action has been taken to halt the losses."

He said substantial cost savings had already been made and some loss-making branches closed.

Spectrum's net assets have fallen below half of its called-up share capital. Spectrum plans to raise £1 million through a five-for-four rights issue of 24.1 million new shares at 5p per share. The proceeds will be used to reduce bank borrowing and provide additional working capital.

The directors, who together hold 12.9 per cent, have undertaken to take up their rights in respect of 12.1 per cent of the issue.

Spectrum made a pre-tax loss of £956,000 in the six months to end-December 1989, against profit of £102,000 previously. Turnover climbed from £5.2 million to £5.65 million. There is a 5.12p loss per share, against earnings of 0.6p last time. Once again, there is no interim dividend.

The shares were unchanged at 7p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

British Vita to sell Australian stake

BRITISH Vita, the polymer group, has said it will sell its 41 per cent stake in Vita Pacific, its Australian associate. Vita Pacific received an Aus\$48 million (£20.17 million) takeover offer from Pacific Dunlop on Thursday, at Aus\$2.4 a share against a Wednesday closing price of Aus\$1.35.

Vita Pacific's board has recommended the bid "in the absence of a better offer". The directors and the two largest shareholders in Vita Pacific, including British Vita, which between them own 80 per cent of the Australian company, have all indicated they will accept the offer. British Vita said Vita Pacific had made a contribution of £770,000 for the year ended June 30.

Nylex to sell BWAC stake

BTR Nylex, the Australian industrial group, which is a subsidiary of BTR, has agreed to sell a 50 per cent interest in Bridge Wholesale Acceptance Corporation (Australia) to Austrim for Aus\$45 million (£19 million). Bridge Wholesale is a financial services specialist. The company made pre-tax profits of Aus\$59.4 million in 1989.

Plasmec slips as costs rise

INCREASED competition and costs lowered pre-tax profits at Plasmec, the USM quoted maker of telecommunications products and plastic components, from £468,000 to £202,000 in the six months to end-June. Turnover slipped to £5.36 million (£5.77 million). Earnings per share fell to 2.8p (6.6p). The interim payout has been held at 1.8p.

Guinness in control

GUINNESS is taking control of Crown Brewery, the south Wales brewer, in return for cancelling £3.2 million that Crown owes to the Guinness subsidiary Harp Lager.

Through Harp, Guinness will acquire 75 per cent of Crown, leaving existing Crown shareholders with the rest of the unsecured business.

Garth Thomas, managing director of Crown, said the deal was "the only practical way of maintaining a unique business in South Wales."

Filofax offer attracts 79%

TRANWOOD Consortium Fund, the fund managed by Peter Earl's company, Tranwood Earl, has 79.51 per cent of Filofax. TCF's 30p-a-share offer for the personal organiser group went unconditional a month ago. Filofax will now have a five-for-nine rights issue at 30p to raise £2.1 million to help fund the business.

NEI awarded £45m order

NEI International Combustion, part of Rolls-Royce, has won a £45 million contract for eight heat-recovery boilers for a gas-fired, combined-cycle power station to be built by America's Enron Power at Wilton on Teesside, Cleveland. The contract will provide a "considerable" amount of work for NEI.

Dalgety out of Africa

DALGETY, the once-global food and agribusiness group, has withdrawn from Africa with the sale of its Dalgety Zimbabwe subsidiary to Astra Corporation for £10 million.

Payment is in the form of a six-year Zimbabwe government bond paying 4 per cent a year. Because of currency controls, only one-sixth of the capital can be repatriated to London each year. The sale means that Dalgety's significant non-European interests are now confined to Australia and America.

Tired power systems generate concern at banks

New York

THE emergency power systems that kept the banking system in business after last Monday's power failure in the Wall Street area are showing signs of wear, causing a new round of problems.

At the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, for example, a water cooling pipe ruptured on Thursday, causing two of three emergency electrical generators to shut down and forcing major adjustments to the "Fed wire."

The Fed wire electronically transfers about \$900 billion a day between banks in 100,000 separate transactions.

A broken generator at Citibank also caused problems with its consumer banking business.

Elliott McEntee, president of the National Automated Clearing House Association, a trade group, said: "One thing bankers are going to be looking at after this episode is

whether their emergency generators need more support like spare parts and trained maintenance people."

The power problem was an indirect result of a blackout caused by a fire on Monday, which cut electricity to the Fed office and many other buildings in the Wall Street area of lower Manhattan.

The Fed was able to maintain operations and avoid asking for a bank holiday on Thursday by shifting its electronic fund transferring and communications system to back-up computers and telephone lines in Pearl River, New York.

The ten-inch cooling pipe burst at 5am on Thursday, and the Fed's funds transfer system began operating at 11.15am.

By 3pm, the volume of activity was normal and the Fed had managed to catch up with the backlog of delayed orders. The Fed's Pearl

River facility was set up in 1987, as part of the campaign by Gerald Corrigan, the bank's president, to improve what he calls "the plumbing of the financial system."

The Fed Reserve System is crucial to the well-being of financial markets, because it is used by securities dealers and banks to make immediate payments.

A lack of confidence in the system could create "financial gridlock," if banks and securities firms stopped sending payments or delayed sending money because of fears that they would not receive payments.

Normally, the Pearl River facility exists only to duplicate the activities of the regular computer system, so that records of transactions can be provided in an emergency.

Among the city's leading banks, the power cut caused the most problems for Citibank, which has an office at 111 Wall Street in lower

Manhattan. That office is Citibank's largest processing centre, handling 1.3 million household accounts. Initially, the batteries and six generators in the building kept the computer system operating. But Citibank later transferred some activities to other places in the city and Secaucus, New Jersey, after the systems shut down temporarily.

Matthew Kiffin, managing director of Citibank's New York bank system, said: "We have not lost any information, so we have a record of any deposits that have been made."

For many customers, electronic deposits of salaries or the paying in of cheque did not appear in their accounts Thursday.

Citibank said certain branches would open yesterday at 8am rather than 9am and would stay open until 7pm. Branches will also be open today from 10am until 2pm.

(New York Times)

Share dealing reforms needed to encourage small investors

Vol 160

[illegible]

WEEKEND MONEY

Crime watch areas attract discount on home insurance

By ANTONY BARNETT

CARELESS householders were responsible for at least 27 per cent of London's burglaries in the year to June, according to statistics published this week.

Intruders gained access without having to force an entry in more than 40,000 of the burglaries reported to London police.

People who allow burglars in, by forgetting to lock windows or doors, are pushing up the cost of insurance for more careful householders. The vigilant have to pay premiums that reflect the claims experience in the postal district in which they live.

Those who have made no theft claims, but who pay high premiums because their postal code is rated as a high crime area, should consider joining a neighbourhood watch scheme.

Because insurers still rely on the postcode to set rates there can be anomalies. This particularly affects those living in metropolitan suburbs. For example, householders in Wandsworth, SW18, can pay almost twice as much as residents living one road away under Wimbledon's SW19 postcode.

Members of the Institute of Insurance Brokers offer a policy that determines the premium according to the number of burglaries per 100 homes in every watch area each year. The policy, set up by Strovers, the insurance brokers, is underwritten by Switzerland Insurance.

It divides households into five sectors, with area one corresponding to one burglary



Break-in: neighbourhood watch areas are a better risk

per 100 households, up to area five that refers to five burglaries per 100 households. The cost for area one is £2.50 per £1,000 new-for-old household contents. The cost is £10 for area five.

Strovers audits the records of the neighbourhood watch co-ordinators to validate the claimed burglary rate. John Wardrop, managing director, said Strovers was seeking to reward successful watch schemes that can demonstrate a consistent reduction in break-ins.

He said: "We are not look-

ing for the flash in the pan. The qualification is pretty exacting. We are not giving sweets to children. To stop any yo-yoing effect, watch areas will only be able to move up one sector at a time."

Brownhill Morris and West, another broker, shares Strovers' confidence in the neighbourhood watch scheme. Its policy is backed by General Accident and only operates within London.

The company sends an inspector to check each insured house to ensure adequate home security in every

watch area. The policy grades homes into only three areas. The most expensive is inner London at £8 per £1,000 insured, while houses in Twickenham, Middlesex, which according to Brownhill has the lowest crime rate, costs £4.50. The scheme also operates a no-claims entitlement with a 15 per cent discount for a claim-free year.

John Brownhill, managing director, said: "Each postal area contains quiet residential areas with a low rate of burglaries as well as the more risky housing estates. For motor insurance, premiums are rated on the history of the driver as well as where the vehicle is parked. For household insurance, it seems unfair to lump everybody in the same postal district together, especially if there is a neighbourhood watch in operation."

Many of the large insurance companies give discounts on neighbourhood watch schemes but cannot afford the time or manpower to evaluate the effectiveness of each individual scheme.

They argue that household premiums are comparatively small and they can only operate profitably in this area by underwriting in large volumes.

To do this, they need a way of assessing risk quickly and so they use postal codes.

A spokesman for Commercial Union said: "We will never get to the stage where we will be underwriting on a street-by-street basis. We wouldn't want to anyway, as some low-risk areas would be paying the bare minimum and high-risk areas would face enormous premiums."

But CU has undertaken its own research into neighbourhood watch and found a link between the existence of the scheme and lower crime figures. CU now gives a 5 per cent discount to watch members on its postcode-based household policy.

Members can obtain concessions from other policies but premiums will still be based on post codes. Hill House Hammond offers a 10 per cent discount, while Norwich Union, Sun Alliance and Royal give 5 per cent.

Survey finds fewer savers

By LINDSAY CROOK
MONEY EDITOR

THE number of non-savers in Britain may be on the increase, according to a quarterly survey by National Westminster Bank.

A quarter of all people questioned said they do not save, compared with one in five in the last survey.

Many of those that do save tend to do so spasmodically, with 32 per cent saying they put money by when they can afford to. A quarter save every month and 17 per cent every week.

The amount saved has also fallen slightly. The average during the quarter was £173 per person, compared with £175 in the first three months of the year. In the earlier survey, 29 per cent of people questioned expected poll tax and inflation to influence them to save less.

During the past three months half as many people thought that the poll tax would prevent them saving - 24 per cent compared with 48 per cent in the first quarter. High mortgage rates were given as a reason for not saving by 8 per cent, compared with 16 per cent in the first quarter.

The cost of holidays was uppermost in people's minds, with 27 per cent stating that these would stop them saving as much in the third quarter.

Those questioned in London and the Southeast claimed to save most, with an average of £195, while those in the Southwest saved least at £133. The Welsh and Scots claimed to save on average £170 and £162 respectively over the period.

The NatWest savings barometer is a quarterly research exercise that tracks the nation's views on savings. Research was conducted by Gallup Poll between June 27 and July 4.

The survey was based on 2,812 interviews throughout Britain.

Most of those questioned preferred to save for short term goals, with only about a third willing to save for five years.

The CU Quilter P.E.P.

Personal Equity Plans, PEPs for short, offer tax-free investment growth through unit trusts or shares.

The CU Quilter PEP is managed by Commercial Union Trustees Limited, with investment expertise provided by two highly respected companies. Share investment is in the care of stockbrokers Quilter Goodson Company Limited, who have been managing private client investments for over 100 years. Unit trust investment management is undertaken by Commercial Union Asset Management Limited, which handles over £16 billion of investments worldwide. All are members of the Commercial Union group of companies.

Please ring us, FREE, on 0800-100-124 or send the coupon, post free.

INFORMATION READILY AVAILABLE



0800-100-124

To Commercial Union Trustees Limited, PEPs Unit, FREEPOST, 451 Godstone Road, Whyteleafe, CR3 9UH. By return, please post me full details of the CU Quilter PEP.

Name (Block letters please)

Address

Postcode

Date of birth

Commercial Union Trustees Limited. Registered in England No. 2045981. Registered Address: St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ. A member of CUAG.



Cash dispenser network expands

CASH dispensers in Italy and Belgium will be available to British building society and bank customers at the end of the year. The arrangement, through the Nexus electronic service, is the latest stage in a plan to link all dispensers in the European Community by 1992.

Access to 1,000 machines of the main Belgian banks will be available through Banksys. In Italy, the Bankomat network will make 5,000 machines

available to British travellers. This summer the Royal Bank of Scotland, AIB Group, and Girobank, and the Britannia, Chelsea, Derbyshire, Dunfermline, Town & Country, Yorkshire building societies began offering customers access to cash networks in Spain and Portugal via Nexus.

Italian and Belgian machines will be operated using Link cards. Dispensers in America, Canada and Japan are already available through

the Plus network. Banks or building societies can impose a levy for foreign transactions, but most choose not to or have already added charges for the European machines. The Royal Bank of Scotland charges £1, and the Britannia Building Society 1.75 per cent with a minimum £2 for transactions in Spain and Portugal.

Nexus will be talking to Turkish banks next week and has plans to bring East European banks into the system.

TURN TO THE STRENGTH OF FIDELITY

An Aggressive Strategy for Today's Markets.

The effect of the Middle East crisis on world stockmarkets is, naturally, giving cause for concern. The likely trend of events in the Middle East is very difficult to predict and markets may well stay volatile for some time. Indeed, it's understandable that more cautious investors may prefer to stand on the sidelines right now.

But if you're an aggressive investor you may wish to take advantage of the current volatility to buy into markets for the long-term.

Of course each investor must make his own investment decision according to his own risk profile. But we believe those investors prepared to take the risk of investing now could maximise long-term growth potential.

In our view, events in the Middle East have not, so far, changed significantly the areas we identified earlier in the year as offering good long-term growth opportunities.

Three Trusts for the Aggressive Investor.

If you want to take an aggressive stance in today's markets consider these three trusts:

FIDELITY EUROPEAN TRUST

The opening up of Eastern Europe, German re-unification, 1992 harmonisation. These investment themes remain intact. And these massive changes, which our Trust is well positioned to exploit, should not be significantly affected by the impact of rising oil prices.

The value of units and the income from them may go down as well as up. Fidelity Investment Services Limited. Member of IIBO & LAITRO. Member of the IFA.

FIDELITY ASEAN TRUST

In times of uncertainty the small, emerging SE Asian markets react sharply. Highly volatile by nature they also offer strong upside potential - at a risk. Right now they've lost ground and could well represent good long-term buying opportunities.


FIDELITY JAPAN SMALLER COMPANIES TRUST

Tokyo has been the most volatile of the major markets so careful stock selection is particularly important. The domestic economy, however, continues to show strength and this should favour the smaller companies expanding their niche markets, which our Trust emphasises.

Your Next Step.

If you're following an aggressive strategy, talk to your Independent Financial Adviser now about Fidelity's recommendations for today's volatile markets. Alternatively, Callfree Fidelity on 0800 414191 or complete the coupon below.

And remember, whatever your investment strategy, you can rely on the worldwide strength of Fidelity.

Call your Independent Financial Adviser  Callfree Fidelity 0800 414191

To Fidelity Investment Services Limited, PO Box 88, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 1DZ.

Please send me details of Fidelity's: European Trust ☐ ASEAN Trust ☐ Japan Smaller Companies Trust ☐ The minimum investment for each Trust is £1,000. Please tick box How much are you thinking of investing: £


Full Name Mr/Ms/Miss

Address

Postcode

Tel No. (Use that we can call you to answer any questions you may have)

Ref Code T224

 **Fidelity INVESTMENTS**

BRIEFINGS

■ THE Woolwich Building Society has allocated a further £50 million to its fixed-rate mortgage at 13.65 per cent. The loans, guaranteed for two years, have an annual percentage rate of 14.6 per cent. A £100 arrangement charge is levied.

■ The Royal Bank of Scotland has also extended its fixed rate offer at 13.5 per cent - 2.2 per cent below its standard mortgage rate. The bank had added further funding to the loans, which are fixed until June 1993. There is also a £100 fee.

■ The Scarborough Building Society has re-introduced its two year fixed-rate mortgage at 13.75 per cent. The rate is guaranteed until October 1992. The society will charge an arrangement fee of £125.

■ Eagle Star launched two new medical expenses plans this week. The Medistar six-week plan provides private treatment when the local National Health Service hospital waiting list exceeds six weeks. The Medistar one-day plan provides immediate private treatment. The schemes are open to applicants up to age 74, and offer a no-claims discount that can reduce premiums by 50 per cent after seven years without claims.

■ A new unit trust that starts with £200 million of funds is launched today. Bishopsgate Growth is the result of the restructuring of J Rothschild Holdings. Dealing will start on August 28. There is no initial charge on the fund until November 29. After that there will be a 5 per cent charge plus a 1.5 per cent annual charge. The trust deed of the international fund gives it the freedom to invest anywhere.

■ Schroders will launch a world fund on Monday. The investment group has already written to Globe shareholders offering them the chance to invest with no initial charge. Other investors will pay 5.25 per cent up front and 1.5 per cent a year.

THE BEST INSTANT ACCESS NO PENALTY RATE AVAILABLE*

12.75% NET

ON £50,000 OR MORE

Compare our new rates! No other major building society can offer you this combination of extra interest with no strings.

So if you've £50,000 or more to invest you won't find a better home for your money than the Skipton.

You'll get the best rate of interest - that's 12.75% net (gross equivalent 12.00%*) and you can pay in or withdraw anytime, without penalty.

If you have less than £50,000 to invest, Sovereign still pays highly competitive rates:-

INVESTMENT	INTEREST RATE	
	NET	GROSS EQUIVALENT*
£50,000 OR MORE	12.75%	17.00%
£10,000 OR MORE	11.00%	14.67%
£ 5,000 OR MORE	10.80%	14.40%
£ 500 OR MORE	10.30%	13.73%

HOW TO GET THE BEST RATE

To open a Sovereign Account, simply call at your nearest Skipton branch.

If it's more convenient, just post your cheque with the coupon (please use first class post to avoid delay). From then on you can pay in or withdraw by post using our First Class Postal Service - and we'll pay the postage.

ONE OF THE TOP TWENTY UK BUILDING SOCIETIES



SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY, HIGH STREET, SKIPTON, NORTH YORKS BD23 1DN. TELEPHONE: 01954 708888. MEMBER OF THE BUILDING SOCIETIES ASSOCIATION.

SKIPTON SOVEREIGN SHARES

Please complete in block capitals. Tick where appropriate.

☐ I/we wish to open a Sovereign Account and enclose a cheque for £ (Min. £500. Max. £1,000,000).

☐ Please send me more details.

NAME

ADDRESS

POSTCODE

SKIPTON BUILDING SOCIETY, HIGH STREET, SKIPTON, NORTH YORKS BD23 1DN

INTEREST PAID ANNUALLY. RATES & TERMS VARIABLE. *FOR BASIC RATE TAXPAYERS. *FROM APRIL 1988. BUILDING SOCIETY AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS.

UNIT TRUSTS FROM £25 A MONTH

Ring our free Moneyline from 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., 7 days a week, on

0800 282 101

 **SAVE & PROSPER**
THE INVESTMENT HOUSE

WEEKEND MONEY

Misleading charges

From Mr John Hanford
Sir, I refer to your interesting article (August 4) on cheque fees overseas, but regret you may be misleading readers regarding Eurocheques. I thought that there would be no charges. However, I wrote a Eurocheque for FF23,693 and was charged £17.50 extra by my bank (Compti). I complained and was told that the charge is "correct" because the cheque was in excess of FF2,500.

I resent charges of this type, and by any standards they are a rip-off. Unfortunately I have yet to find an inexpensive way of transferring money. Perhaps two Eurocheques, each less than FF2,500, would have worked.
Yours sincerely,
JOHN HANFORD,
Kingscliffe,
Pinner Hill,
Pinner,
Middlesex.

Cashing cheques

From Mr C.A. Vaughan
Sir, With reference to E.P. Lloyd's article (Weekend Money, August 4) "Cost of cashing cheques..." I would respectfully suggest that the answer to Mr Lloyd's dilemma concerning charges levied when cashing cheques in the United Kingdom at banks other than his own lies in his own letter.

The opening of an account with the Royal Bank of Scotland, named in the letter, would provide access to a truly unique nationwide network of over 900 branches stretching the length and breadth of the country.
Yours faithfully,
C.A. VAUGHAN,
18 Sycamore Road,
Chapel-en-le-Frith,
Derbyshire.

From Mr Geoffrey Brazendale
Sir, Mr E.P. Lloyd in his letter (August 4) about the cost of cashing cheques, complains that there is no bank which has a network in both Scotland and England.

May I, through *The Times*, recommend that he opens an account with the TSB which operates throughout the United Kingdom.

In my travels I have obtained cash without incurring any charges in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. No other bank has so many branches in so many places throughout the United Kingdom except the Post Office Savings Bank.

Yours faithfully,
GEOFFREY BRAZENDALE,
Longwaite House,
Wigton,
Cumbria.

INTEREST RATES ROUND-UP

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Ordinary Dep A/c	4.50	4.50	none/none 7 day
Fixed Term Deposits			
Barclays	11.44	10.81	25,000-50,000 1 mth 071-626 1567
Lloyds	10.38	10.23	2,500-10 mth 1 mth Local Branch
Midland	10.48	10.48	10,000-10 mth 1 mth 071-230 2905
West	10.48	10.48	10,000-10 mth 1 mth 071-230 2905
West	10.48	10.48	10,000-10 mth 1 mth 071-230 2905

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Bank of Scotland	10.45	10.97	2,500 none 031-442 7777
Barclays	9.50	9.54	2,500 none 0804 252891
Prison a/c	6.00	6.20	4.96 No limit none 071 626 6543
Co-operative	7.00	7.20	5.76 5000 none 071 325 2336
Lloyds	9.50	9.54	7.87 2,000 none
Midland	9.50	9.54	7.87 2,000 none
Special Reserve	9.00	9.31	7.45 5000 none 071-574 3374
Royal Bank of Scotland	9.75	10.11	8.09 2,500 none 031-556 8555
TSB (England & Wales)	9.00	9.00	7.20 2,000 none 071-600 6000

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Ordinary Share A/c	6.15	6.15	4.82 1 mth none
Best buy - largest socs:			
National & Power	10.50	10.50	8.40 500 min none
British	11.30	11.30	8.40 5,000 min 90 day
Ulster & Laid	11.75	11.75	8.40 10,000 min 1 year
Best buy - all socs:			
Cheltenham & GL	12.25	12.25	9.80 2,500 min none
240 Guardian	12.25	12.25	9.80 3,000 min 30 day
St Pauls	12.25	12.25	9.79 3,000 min 60 day
Walthamstow	12.25	12.25	9.79 10,000 min 90 day
Standard	12.70	12.70	10.15 5,000 min 6 mths

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Cash/Check Accounts			
Barclays	3.75	3.75	3.00 1 mth Rates rise
Admiral	6.80	6.80	5.52 500 min with larger
Lakeland	6.00	6.00	4.80 500 min balances
Walthamstow	6.00	6.00	4.80 500 min

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
Ordinary A/c	5.00	3.75	3.00 5-10,000 8 day 041-648-4555
Investment A/c	12.75	9.58	7.85 5-25,000 1 mth 041-648-4555
Income Bond	12.75	10.13	8.10 2,000-25,000 3 mth 0253 98151
Depositor Bond	13.50	10.13	8.10 2,000-25,000 3 mth 041-648-4555
25th Issue Cert	9.50	9.50	8.50 20-200/mth 14 day 031-3884800
Yield Plan	9.50	9.50	8.50 20-200/mth 14 day 031-3884800
Extension Rate	5.01	5.01	5.01 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Capital Bond	13.00	9.75	7.50

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
American Life	12.20	12.20	10.37 25,000 min 1 yrs Firms find
Regency Life	11.10	11.10	9.45 10,000 min 3 yrs Chase de
Liberty Life	10.80	10.80	9.18 10,000 min 3 yrs Vero call
Liberty Life	10.80	10.80	9.01 25,000 min 4 yrs 071 404 5786
Liberty Life	10.50	10.50	8.52 5,000 min 5 yrs 071 404 5786

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
BNP (July 88-89)	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Bank Rate	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Personal Loan	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Credit Card	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555

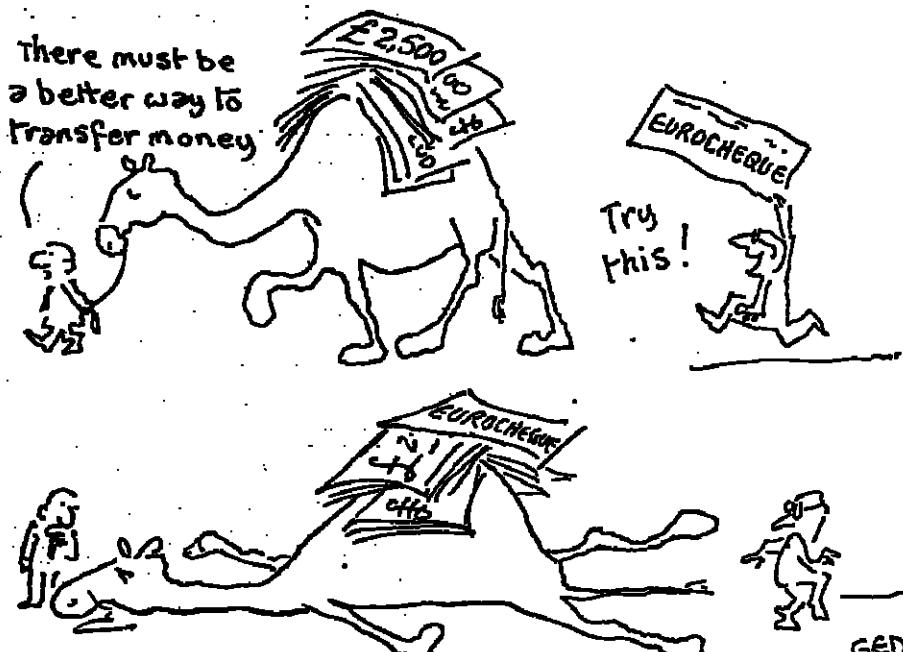
Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
BNP (July 88-89)	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Bank Rate	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Personal Loan	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Credit Card	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
BNP (July 88-89)	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Bank Rate	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Personal Loan	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Credit Card	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555

Bank	Rate	Term	Notes
BNP (July 88-89)	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Bank Rate	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Personal Loan	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555
Credit Card	14.00	14.00	12.50 100-100,000 5 yrs 041-648-4555

LETTERS

There must be a better way to transfer money



Direct debits

From Ms Patricia Turner
Sir, Further to the recent correspondence in your Weekend Money column on direct debits, which I avoid whenever possible, your readers might care to know that if they have taken advantage of BupaCare's special tax relief policy, they must check with their branch that they are fully covered if the subscription has not been debited on their statement.

In March, I filled in Bupa's special tax claim form, agreeing to pay by direct debit, giving me further discount (my profession is recognised by Bupa). At the end of that month I received an account from Bupa stating I had an outstanding balance - twice as much as agreed! At the beginning of April, I rang the helpline stating my bank had not been instructed by Bupa to make this monthly debit, and this saga continued month by month. Whenever I telephoned I was told not to worry as I was covered. Worry I did - my current account might not have sufficient funds for a

bulk payment. In June, I was telephoned by the helpline stating the Birmingham supervisor would explain all. I heard nothing, neither did Lloyds Bank.

Another month went by and still nothing. Eventually, a supervisor rang to inform me I was not covered and would not be covered until payment had been taken out of my account, and I should not have been told I was covered. She then went on to say I had been taken off the Bupa list - she knew not why and would be unable to tell me because it was all locked in the computer - how many times have we all been told this? She admitted there was nothing in writing from me cancelling my subscription but I would be reinstated.

Subscription advice continues to fall through the letter box and now amount to nearly £200.

On July 30 and five months later, Lloyds Bank telephoned to say they had received instructions from Bupa to debit my account with nearly £200 but they had not received my signed mandate from

Bupa, and they required this authorisation.

It was agreed the bank return the direct debit statement otherwise I might find I had agreed to pay £200 every month instead of nearly £40.

So readers be wary. Should you find yourselves in this bewildering plight, remember you are not covered (or are you?) until your bank statement shows the debit. Anyway, that is the latest piece of information given to me.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICIA TURNER,
Forge Cottage,
Upper Ludstone,
Claverly, Shropshire.

From Dr Michael Quinn
Sir, There are dangers in direct debits. The electricity people recently demanded an immediate payment of nearly £500 despite a long operating standing order. This was shortly followed by a threat of legal action. The estimate was not correct but they would have taken the money.

Yours faithfully,
DR MICHAEL QUINN,
25 Shepherds Lane,
Sherborne, Dorset.

Bonus claim on BAA shares

From Mr Harold S. Curry
Sir, I received a letter from BAA dated June 15, part of which reminded me of the share bonus.

My wife died some two-and-a-half years ago and the shares, which were originally in her name, were passed or transferred to me under the terms of her will.

On receipt of the letter, I telephoned Barclays Registrars to enquire whether I was entitled to the bonus share. I was informed that on the application form, box 4 was not completed therefore bonus shares were not applicable.

I queried as to the alternative available to the bonus shares and I was advised "nothing".

I am at a loss to understand the situation, can you please advise on my position.

Yours truly,
HAROLD S. CURRY,
5 Bloomsbury Court,
Moss Lane,
Pinner,
Middlesex.

Original applicants for BAA shares under the offer in July 1987 were entitled to bonus shares on the basis of one bonus share for every ten ordinary shares held continuously to July 31, 1990, (subject to a maximum of 200 bonus shares), provided that certain tests as to eligibility were satisfied. These were intended to restrict the bonus shares to individuals and exclude bodies such as companies, partnerships and trusts. If an individual applying for the original shares considered that he was eligible for the bonus then he was required to enter "yes" in box 4 on the application form. If this box was not completed then the registrars assumed that, for whatever reason, the applicant did not consider himself eligible for the share bonus.

As it appears that your late wife did not complete box 4 it would appear that there is now no way in which you can claim the bonus shares.

Cool response to gas bills

From Mr F. Rosenfeld
Sir, Michael Pittfield ("Suspicious customers have nothing to fear..." August 4) had

better beware. I wrote to my gas company some years back stating: "I am in receipt of one of your silly bills..."

This was for an estimated consumption far higher, and several hundred pounds more, than my norm for the quarter.

This could be recovered next quarter (if one's bank account had not been emptied in the interim), but to give an organisation the power to deduct any sum they feel like is surely nothing less than foolhardy.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK ROSENFELD,
4 Marston Close,
Fairfax Road, NW6.

Take away the number you first thought of... don't tell me.

GED

Postal credit

From Mr A. Lovell
Sir, In reply to the letter from Mr H. Corkery (August 4), there is no reason why the opportunity of interest-free credit should be missed. An agreement can be dealt with through the post.

There will be a delay of at least seven days from receiving the goods as the supplier will not (usually) get paid until the cancellation period has passed.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LOVELL,
Managing Director,
Drovers Finance Ltd,
PO Box 111,
Naphill, High Wycombe,
Buckinghamshire.

THERE ARE OVER 1,000 UNIT TRUSTS TO CHOOSE FROM... NO WONDER YOU NEED FINANCIAL ADVICE THAT'S INDEPENDENT.

For a list of ten local Independent Financial Advisers who will offer impartial advice on your financial future, call the HOTLINE number, or complete the coupon.

CALL 081-200 3000 OR COMPLETE THE COUPON

WE GUARANTEE NO SALESMAN WILL CALL OR PHONE YOU

To IFA Promotions Limited, Unit 3, Air Call Business Centre, Colindale Lane, London NW9 8BW.

Please send me a list of ten local Independent Financial Advisers convenient to my home or work address, below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(Please state postcode)

PLEASE STATE POSTCODE _____



12.25%
NET VARIABLE
THE HIGHEST 90 DAY RATE.
GUARANTEED PEACE OF MIND FOR 2 YEARS.
PLUS AN INSTANT MONEY BACK OFFER.

KEY BENEFIT

The highest rate, plus a 2-year guarantee, along with an instant money back option.

Our new Key 90 Day Account. Quite simply it's the best available from any major building society. It offers at launch the highest rate for £20,000 - 12.25% net, 16.33% gross.[†] Plus a unique 2-year guarantee.

For the period up to 15th August 1992, the interest rate on balances of £20,000 and over is guaranteed to be above the average of the top rates of interest paid by other major building societies* on 90 day accounts.

So you can have complete peace of mind about your investment without having to shop around.

There's even a monthly income option at 11.60% net, 13.47% gross.^{††} And a lower entry level of £10,000, paying 11.50% net, 13.33% gross.^{††} also with a monthly income option.

Balance	Rate
£20,000 - £1 Million	12.25% Net.
£10,000 - £19,999	11.50% Net.

The Key 90 Day Account.

We're so confident it's the best, we're making a special introductory offer. Until 31st October 1990, if you open a Key 90 Day Account and then find better elsewhere, we'll return your money instantly with interest paid in full.

Send the coupon with your cheque today to the FREEPOST address below. Or call into any branch of the Society.

FREEPOST

Send to: Yorkshire Building Society (Department K90), FREEPOST, Yorkshire House, Wiggate, BRADFORD, West Yorkshire BD1 1BR.

I enclose a cheque for £..... (min £10,000) made payable to Yorkshire Building Society.

I require: ☐ Annual Interest ☐ Monthly Income ☐

NAME IN FULL (Mr/Ms/Mrs) _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TEL _____

SIGNATURE _____

P.S. I am interested in receiving your interest-free credit offer.

Please send me details of Yorkshire Building Society (YBS).

YORKSHIRE Building Society

Britain's Key Building Society

Published replies marked with the triangle logo are by Bill Packer, tax partner at accountants Touche Ross, in association with *The Times*. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's Portfolio price changes (today's are on page 37).

Share	Price	Change	Share	Price	Change
1	+3	+5	11	+3	+2
2	+1	+2	12	+7	+3
3	+7	+3	13	+2	+5
4	+2	+4	14	+1	+5
5	+6	+2	15	+3	+3
6	+1	+1	16	+5	+1
7	+3	+1	17	+5	+2
8	+3	+4	18	+6	+3
9	+7	+2	19	+1	+1
10	+2	+1	20	+3	+3
11	+3	+2	21	+6	+1
12	+7	+3	22	+2	+1
13	+2	+5	23	+3	+1
14	+1	+1	24	+1	+1
15	+3	+3	25	+3	+2
16	+5	+1	26	+5	+1
17	+5	+2	27	+1	+1
18	+6	+3	28	+2	+1
19	+1	+1	29	+3	+2
20	+3	+3	30	+1	+1
21	+6	+1	31	+5	+2
22	+2	+1	32	+2	+2
23	+3	+1	33	+1	+1
24	+1	+1	34	+3	+2
25	+3	+2	35	+4	+1
26	+5	+1	36	+2	+1
27	+1	+1	37	+1	+2
28	+2	+1	38	+7	+2
29	+3	+2	39	+5	+2
30	+1	+1	40	+2	+1
31	+5	+2	41	+3	+2
32	+2	+2	42	+5	+1
33	+1	+1	43	+1	+1
34	+3	+2	44	+1	+1
35	+4	+1			
36	+2	+1			
37	+1	+2			
38	+7	+2			
39	+5	+2			
40	+2	+1			
41	+3	+2			
42	+5	+1			
43	+1	+1			
44	+1	+1			

SCHOOL FEES PLANNING
Ask for our new booklet now.
Ring our free Moneyline from 9.30 a.m. - 5.30 p.m., 7 days a week, on 0800 282 101

SAVE & PROSPER
IN THE INVESTMENT MARKET

Hard knocks for Hardwick clients

Once again, investors have reason to be disappointed with the Financial Services Act. This week, clients of Hardwick Investment Management heard that they will not receive compensation from the investors' compensation scheme.

The clients face losses of £1.5 million on the guaranteed performance insurance bonds they bought from the Lynne Regis-based firm. It was later suspended by the Financial Intermediaries, Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association (Fimbra), which found the investments were worth only £5 million instead of the £6.5 million the investors expected. Clients who had placed a total of £5 million with the firm were guaranteed growth of 10 per cent a year. Now they are told that Hardwick is not in default. The compensation scheme cannot be called upon.

"A potential claim in respect of investment performance does not of itself constitute compensable liability," said the letter from the Securities and Investments Board (SIB).

The funds have been taken out

of the control of Hardwick's owner, Terence Elwick. They are being managed by the three life companies with which Mr Elwick had chosen to operate the broker bonds.

SIB is now looking at whether the insurance companies can be held responsible for the guarantees or whether Mr Elwick might be liable.

Hardwick's Fimbra membership appears to be worth nothing. Hardwick investors are no better off than they were before the Financial Services Act.

They join a long list of investors who have lost money since the compensation scheme was set up two years ago. Too many received no recompense. Now, as the scheme approaches its second anniversary on August 27, could be the time to invite suggestions from investors on how it might be improved.

Under the scheme, guarantees count for nothing and neither does interim authorisation. It



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK

WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

allows investment firms to continue to trade but gives no protection to their clients.

Anyone who invests through a tied agent is not covered by the compensation scheme if the agent decides to branch out with some private enterprise. Investors can only hope that the investment group to which the agent was tied to will bail them out.

This is the pretty much the same situation they would have found themselves in before the Financial Services Act.

The clients of the growing number of firms that appear able to operate for months, if not years, without authorisation, are

also unprotected. Anyone who naively believed that the act had cleaned up the financial services industry would be wrong.

Stock Group investors who thought they were protected by the compensation scheme found that their cash was frozen in the British & Commonwealth Merchant Bank when B&C was taken into administration.

This meant that if there was any shortfall they were covered by the banks' compensation scheme, which pays a maximum of £15,000 rather than the investors' one with an upper limit of £48,000.

Not that all investors feel that £48,000 is enough. Many of the

Dunsdale Securities investors will receive only a tiny percentage of their original investment back because of that limit.

Charged up

National Westminster Bank's concern that its customers should take a responsible attitude to borrowing might have been more touching if the bank had not decided to announce, almost simultaneously, an increase in its charges for overdrafts.

The new leaflet on borrowing safely emphasises the desirability of contacting the bank before going into the red. It says such customers will pay interest and there may be an additional fee. From September 10, the quarterly charge on overdrafts through the bank's credit zone facility will jump 50 per cent to £12 for current account customers and to

£16 for current plus customers. Those who overdraw during a quarter but manage to keep an average credit balance of £500 in that period are not charged.

The interest rate on arranged overdrafts is 24.5 per cent, while NatWest charges 37.5 per cent interest to people who overdraw without the go-ahead of their bank manager.

Lloyds customers may also be seeking help with their overdrafts. The bank increased the rate on its unauthorised overdrafts yesterday to 37.6 per cent. The bank said it was bringing its rate into line and had increased the rate to persuade customers to talk to them before going into the red. Lloyds charges 25.3 per cent for authorised overdrafts on its classic account, and 26.8 per cent on its current account and Access credit card.

Midland charges 36.1 per cent to unauthorised borrowers on its current account. Barclays is the cheapest of the big four with an effective annual rate of 35.4 per cent for unauthorised overdrafts.

Customers are duly warned of the high cost of being disorganised.

Courses help prepare for life after retirement

MOST people put off planning for retirement, unwilling to think about sorting out a pension provision or calculating their tax position. But there is no shortage of advice, not only on financial matters but also on generally coping with the stress of retirement.

Increasingly, employers are offering pre-retirement counselling as an employee benefit, linking up with insurance companies that organise seminars on all aspects of retirement planning, including health, leisure and welfare benefits as well as financial advice.

The alternative for those whose employers do not offer courses is to attend an "open" course. Legal & General's seminars for mixed company groups cost £160 for two days, while the Prudential charges £140 for its two-day planning for retirement seminars.

Other sessions are offered by salesmen, usually tied to a single life company, calling themselves consultants or financial advisers. But it is important to check on the status of the pre-retirement course organiser and speakers, particularly if the seminar is free. Insurance salesmen have realised that pre-retirement courses can be a lucrative source of business and will market likely customers. Names are often taken from the electoral roll and the salesmen invite people to tax and pension planning seminars, intending to sell as many of their own company's policies as possible. If the seminar is free, salesmen consider it will pay for itself through the products they sell.

"If someone says, we are in a local hotel, come and meet us for a glass of wine, they will try and sell you their products," John Cole, the managing director of Berry Birch & Noble, an independent adviser, said. His company provides speakers for seminars organised by Prudential Assurance as an independent adviser.

Sun Life and Allied Dunbar both have salesmen who run pre-retirement planning seminars



and they freely admit they have realised the financial advantage of running these courses.

"Our more experienced top producers find courses are a helpful way to meet clients. It would be ludicrous to pretend we are doing this as a social service," said an Allied Dun-

bar spokesman. "We give mostly generic advice and try not to make it too product specific. It is made clear that it is an Allied Dunbar course."

Sun Life has only one consultant running courses specifically geared to pre-retirement, but its salesmen offer courses on tax planning

and investment. "We don't believe in the hard sell, but if life insurance is the right vehicle we will try to sell them ours," said a Sun Life spokesman, adding that the courses were clearly identified as Sun Life courses.

Courses run by tied salesmen will not necessarily include a hard sell session. But people should check whether a salesman is tied or independent. Tied agents or appointed representatives, as they prefer to be called, are only allowed to sell the investment products of one company and cannot comment on those of other companies. An independent adviser can provide information on any investments available in the market and is not restricted. Because of this, an independent should be less likely to pressurise the unwary into taking out an unsuitable policy.

Independent intermediaries, however, do concede the value of publicity for their own services if they speak at seminars. "The course is our shop window. We would like to be considered independent and we would aim to gain clients from courses," Mr Noble, of Berry Birch & Noble, said.

Associations for those approaching retirement and pensioners believe pre-retirement courses can be useful so long as the credentials of the speakers can be checked. They stress that such courses should be taken when there is still time to plan investments and add to pensions.

"Pre-retirement planning must be done carefully. People need the skill to maximise their standard of living within the limits of a fixed income," said Bernard Ring, general secretary of the Pre-Retirement Association.

Michael King, information manager for Help the Aged said: "Retirement is a life change and people will feel apprehensive. Pre-retirement seminars are a good idea but we are against a hard sell of any kind. It is important to get unbiased financial advice."

SARA MCCONNELL

High street banks in talks to join fraud detection scheme for credit applications

By MARGARET DIBBEN

A SCHEME to prevent fraud, which is already saving the credit industry £15 million a year and trapping 600 fraudulent applications a month, will become even more effective once the high street banks follow the lead set by Barclaycard and the Co-operative Bank in subscribing to the system.

Under the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System (Cifas), any company that detects a fraud immediately informs the credit reference agencies by computer. Then, when another credit company is checking an applicant's creditworthiness, it will be alerted to make more detailed enquiries and to seek more information from the first company.

Since Barclaycard joined the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System three months ago, the company has spotted 30 fraudulent applications a week and expects to save £3 million a year from the scheme.

The Co-operative Bank joined the scheme seven weeks ago and has already prevented six large organised credit card frauds.

Negotiations are now well advanced with the other high street banks, which are expected to join before long.

To date, the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System has 57 members, including a number of building societies.

The Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System can detect three broad categories of fraud:

- Using a false name with a genuine address, known as the "empty house fraud".

- Impersonating another individual.
- Giving false details with a genuine name and address and then deliberately defrauding the lender.

Barclaycard does not rely solely on the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System to uncover fraud. As a matter of course the company now telephones all credit applicants who have passed the initial vetting procedure to verify their identity. The card company writes to those who cannot be reached by telephone.

John Eaton, director of the card service at Barclays, explained some of the problems: "Fraudulent card applications, particularly those which impersonate another individual using a true name and address, are often difficult to weed out."

But much of the fraud is perpetrated by criminal rings who send in multiple applications in false names and addresses. Criminals run up vast debts in a very short space of time with these cards.

Anthony Sharp, deputy director of the Consumer Credit Trade Association that launched the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System, said: "The greatest type of recorded fraud we have is impersonation of a genuine person."

"One or two companies have helped the police arrest people through Cifas. A motor finance company in Surrey recently detected a hit, saved themselves £3,000, recovered the car and apprehended the fraudster."

There is one type of fraud

that has increased recently. People deposit large amounts of money with credit companies, usually by building society cheques, and then spend the money in the account before the cheque has had time to clear.

Mr Sharp added: "Through Cifas we have managed to save a lot of money on that by passing on information."

At present the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System tracks unsecured loan applications, but Mr Sharp hopes that mortgage fraud will

be covered by the scheme by the end of the year.

There are two main types of mortgage fraud. One is application fraud, which is probably the main fraud in terms of numbers.

But the most potentially dangerous is the professional fraud involving a dishonest solicitor, valuer and estate agent. Once mortgage fraud is included in the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System's records, the addresses of such professionals may be listed.

BP SHAREHOLDERS who bought

shares during the disastrous government sale that straddled Black Monday and the stock market crash in 1987 are being given a chance to deal cheaply now that the shares are in profit (Lindsay Cook writes).

The Norwich & Peterborough building society has responded to the surge in the BP share price by offering an execution-only dealing service in BP from Monday, with a minimum commission of £20.

The service is available at the society's 64 branches from London to Humberston. Those wishing to sell must take their share certificates to a Norwich branch or can telephone Waters Lunniss, its stockbroker subsidiary, on 0603 630063.

The commission works out at 1 per cent on the first £9,000 and 0.2 per cent thereafter. This compares with the standard rate of 1.5 per cent on the first £7,000, 1 per cent on the next £8,000 and 0.6 per cent above £15,000. Norwich investors with cash counter gold cheque accounts will be charged 1 per cent on the first

£7,000 and 0.2 per cent thereafter. The account can be opened with a minimum deposit of £10.

Those with Norwich accounts will be paid directly into the accounts and non-members will be sent a cheque in settlement. The society, which is the only one to own a stockbroker, is making the offer until September 28.

When the government sold part of its remaining holding in BP in 1987, the price of £3.30 was announced just before the stock market crash. By the time dealing started, investors faced a loss and the shares hit a low of 249p last year. This week they have topped 380p.

Philip Dearing, general manager operations, said: "We are acting quickly to meet demand from investors buying and selling BP stock. There are many thousands of investors with small parcels of BP shares, bought at 330p each at the time of the stock market crash. Many of those shareholders will now want to sell, but equally there are those that will want to buy in the

belief that the Gulf crisis will make the price of shares in oil companies rise even higher."

Norwich has offered special deals in all the recent privatisations. It carried out 7,500 transactions, valued at about £10 million, after the flotation of the water companies last year. The most popular deal was the £8 transaction for up to four shareholdings from one family in the same water company. Plans are already far advanced for a similar deal when the electricity companies are floated in November.

National Westminster Bank is currently offering cheap dealing for British Gas shareholders. Its touch screen service, which is normally only available to NatWest customers, is available to any British Gas shareholders. The bank also opens the service up to all comers following privatisations and major flotations.

Gas shareholders are being offered instant dealing for a minimum of £17 through the 270 branches. The usual minimum fee for

touchscreen transactions is £25. Non-customers must take two items of identification with evidence of their signature and address as well as the share certificate. Cheques are sent on the stock exchange settlement date.

NatWest stockbrokers are also offering a postal dealing service in gas shares with a minimum commission of £11. The commission rate on both schemes is 1 per cent.

The bank introduced the service because it was aware that, once the special deals offered at the time of flotations are withdrawn, many small investors do not know how to sell these shares. It is likely to extend the special deal to other privatisation stocks and possibly to popular shares such as Marks and Spencer and J Sainsbury in the future.

Royal Insurance announced this week that it is providing a low-cost dealing service for its 60,000 private shareholders. The company has linked up with Hoare Govett Corporate Finance to offer a basic commission rate of 1 per cent, with

no minimum charge. This particularly favours those with tiny shareholdings who normally find it difficult to deal economically.

The company hopes that new shareholders will be encouraged on to the register by the initiative. Royal launched a share dividend scheme in 1988 that allows investors to receive dividends in the form of additional shares. Royal introduced a personal equity plan (Pep) for its individual shareholders last year.

This also gives the option of unit trust investment so that they can take advantage of their full annual Pep allowance. The scheme allows lump sum investments of between £1,800 and £6,000 to be made. Investments in Peps are free of capital gains tax and income tax.

Ian Rushton, group chief executive of Royal Insurance, said: "Shareholders with small private shareholdings are very important to us, and we are keen to play our part in demystifying the process of dealing in shares and reducing overall costs for them."

Queensway trouble adds weight to OFT warning



In receivership: one of Lowndes Queensway's stores that together may hold about £14 million of customers' deposits

By BARBARA ELLIS

THE arrival of the receiver at Lowndes Queensway, the furniture retailer, this week, may give the Office of Fair Trading some timely leverage in its four-year battle to persuade furniture retailers to introduce some form of protection for pre-delivery payments.

Time runs out this month on its ultimatum that action must be taken.

Lowndes Queensway had carried customer protection insurance since 1986, when it appears to have been the only major retailer to react to the OFT's first recommendation that retailers should set up pre-payment protection schemes to safeguard their customers' interests.

Its current insurance policy was taken out to cover customer deposits as a condition of a £70 million rescue package agreed by the company's bankers in January.

The policy, which cost more than £1.5 million and was placed in the Lloyd's market by Sedgwick, the insurance broker, lasts for 12 months and has a ceiling of £15 million.

Lowndes's report and accounts for the year to end January show that customers had placed £23.8 million on deposit with the company. But current deposits are expected to be about £10 million less than this, as January is a peak time for sales and Lowndes has since closed 253 stores.

The receiver is still studying the Lowndes insurance policy and as yet is not in a position to guarantee refunds to all customers. It has said it will

deliver any orders if it proves financially viable to do so. If the current level of deposits exceeds the £15 million limit on the insurance policy, customers would receive only a proportion of their money back.

But those who are entitled to a refund under the scheme may suffer a delay before receiving any money. The insurance policy would be triggered by the official liquidation of Lowndes, which may not happen for months.

Most retailers, through organisations such as the National Association of Furniture Retailers, rejected the proposal of deposit insurance as impractical, claiming the cost would be prohibitive.

Back on the attack in February this year in a report on furniture and carpets *Sill & Depressing Picture*, the OFT again identified the lack of any pre-payment protection schemes as one of the industry's main problems.

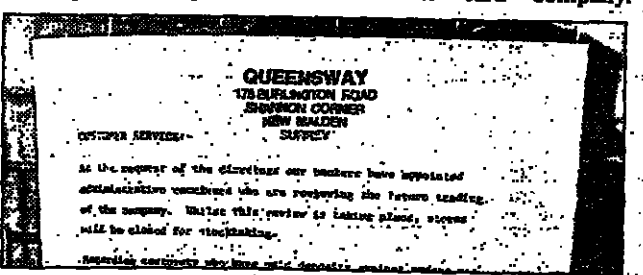
As the OFT noted, advance payments can be lost if a trader goes out of business before delivering. If the business becomes insolvent, customers are relegated to unsecured creditor status, ranking behind preferential

creditors such as the Inland Revenue, local authorities and employees. In this position, they are unlikely to receive anything.

The last large scale example was the 1986 collapse of Price Slaters, the 20-store chain of discount furniture stores, which went into liquidation owing nearly £1 million to unsecured creditors, of which about £500,000 was owed to 8,000 customers who had paid in advance. But the assets of the company came to little more than £250,000, all of which went to preferential creditors.

There is already some protection for customers paying by credit card, or via a finance house agreement specifically linked to a furniture shop. Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act makes lenders and retailers equally liable if there is any breach of contract or misrepresentation in cases where the cash price of the goods is more than £100 and less than £30,000, with not more than £15,000 paid for on credit.

Non-delivery of furniture could amount to breach of contract and cardholders could claim their money back from the card company.



People who had paid a cash deposit, as part of an agreement with a finance house would have a claim against the finance house.

Recognising the protection given by the Consumer Credit Act, the OFT in February issued its recommendations into a six-month ultimatum, warning: "If the industry cannot or will not improve the situation of its own volition, the office will have no option but to consider whether legislation is appropriate."

Trade claims that the cost of a protection scheme would be prohibitive were dismissed as a defence of the status quo.

The trade bodies appear to have responded to the threat of legislation in the traditional manner, by forming a working party to draw up a voluntary code of practice. They also commissioned a report from Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountants, which is currently being finalised.

"Pre-payment protection" is not straightforward. It's not as simple as it sounds," said Alan Shaw, of the British Furniture Manufacturers' Association, a member of the working party. A number of options had to be considered, including giving more publicity to the protection afforded by credit cards. The trade bodies were also exploring the possibility of persuading household insurers to include cover for lost deposits up to a value of £2,000, he said.

The working party hoped to deliver its report to the OFT next month, but would not comment on its conclusions.

Fearless fighter who seized the jewel in Ratners' crown

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BUSINESS PROFILE

Gerald Ratner

Gerald Ratner has no fear, or so he says. The chairman of Ratners Group, the world's biggest jewellery chain, was returning from a business trip to Miami, Florida, when an engine of the plane caught fire. As smoke billowed around the fuselage, passengers were ordered to lie on the floor and oxygen masks dropped from the cabin roof. But Ratner claims the panic of the other travellers did not touch him. The more afraid they became the more confident he felt.

The plane landed finally in the Bahamas. "I felt elated to be alive," recounts Ratner. "Well, not elated, but quite happy."

But Gerald Ratner is, by his own admission, economical with the truth. On one level, he is disarmingly honest, too honest for his own good say some friends. But he concedes to telling small lies because people do not always want the truth.

"There are certain benefits in telling people what they want to hear. You don't get points for telling the truth all the time," he says.

But it is possible that when he says he has no fear, he is being honest. His friend David Green, managing director of Colfax and Fowler, says: "I can understand him saying that. He probably is fearless. He can be reckless. I'm not sure I'd like to go on a long drive with Gerald, especially not near a cliff edge."

Others close to Ratner feel the same way. "Moira, my wife, gets really upset about it. She says it's ridiculous. She says I'm not responsible, not sensible about anything I do," says Ratner.

Moira, his second wife, who worked for the company until their daughter, Sarah, was born 18 months ago, says his worst fault is his irresponsibility. "He doesn't get frightened. I worry about leaving him with the baby for any great length of time."

Ratner's other great characteristic is ambition. Some say it would make Alexander the Great feel like an under-achiever. It has driven him in his business life and turned Ratners from a £350,000 loss-making concern in 1984 into a business generating £121 million in profits in the year to February 1990.

He has never hesitated in grabbing opportunities as they arise and is more likely to regret things he has not done rather than things he has done. He regretted not buying Gordon's, the American jewellery chain, when it was available in 1988, and later suffered watching his American rival, Zales, swallow it up. He feels he is rectifying that loss with his current £234 million purchase of Kay Jewelers, America's second largest chain.

Ratners was started by his father, Leslie, in 1949, the year Gerald was born, the second youngest of four children and the only son. His father had returned from army service in India with a young wife, Rachelle, and enough money to open the first shop in Richmond, Surrey. Gerald joined the business straight from grammar school, in Hendon, where he had failed to shine.

At 17 he had a penchant for football, was hooked on gambling, going out with girls and

gate-crashing parties. "Best time of my life," says Ratner. But he was keen to join the family business, which had grown to about 35 shops. Leslie Ratner had by this time gone into partnership with his two brothers and his father, a watchmaker by trade, but it was not a particularly happy family, something Gerald was able to exploit years later when he made his bid for control of the business.

After a successful spell with the manufacturing arm of the business, Ratner went to work in head office, as joint managing director, with his father. It was not a successful partnership. Ratner felt restricted in what he could do. He had no power and there were rows. The business was doing badly, profits halved in 1982 and Gerald was not happy.

When his father went to America with his mother, who was unwell, Ratner seized his opportunity. He changed the direction of the business, and

the group intended to make fewer acquisitions, Coppel's speciality, and would concentrate on consolidation, O'Brien's speciality. Three months later the bid for Kay was launched. "You've got to tell them something," he laughs. He has not seen Coppel since.

Ratner is not a man for committees. He is a doer rather than a talker, although he is also a showman and can give an entertaining performance if asked to address a meeting. It is difficult to imagine the group without him.

Shareholders certainly cannot complain about his lack of dedication. Those who know him well say he is extremely hard-working. But Ratner enjoys himself outside of business and says he would like to think that at some stage he could turn his attention to something else, like politics, charity or travelling.

"I'd like to retire quite young. There will be a time in this business when the quality that I have won't be the right one. I hope that someone does to me what I did to my father. I'd love it if my daughter did that."

The board is considering introducing compulsory retirement at 55. This still gives Ratner 14 years. He says he is

going to steal it. The City is dominated by the general economic situation. In a bull market anything goes and in a bear market nothing. Dixons was the right deal for Ratners at the wrong time.

But some City observers disagree. They believe Ratners' talks with Dixons stem from another strong Ratner characteristic, impulsiveness. One analyst says: "He is extremely calculating, works everything out and then blows it by being impulsive. He is a very impatient person."

For someone who admits to being ruthless, aggressive, impatient and ambitious, Ratner is surprisingly likeable. He has none of the pomposity or snobbery that many men in his position possess, and he is very amusing.

Ratner claims his success and wealth have done little to change him. "I know some people who have done well and made a few bob and have started to change, and I don't think it's very nice."

His one indulgence is collecting paintings. He cannot relate to modern art, preferring instead the late 19th century.

But Ratner knows what he likes. Moira says she buys very little for him because his tastes are precise. His dark, understated suits come from Savile Row, his Cartier watch is 22 years old and he wears no wedding ring.

He does not like clutter and even persuades travelling companions to carry extra shirts for him in their luggage so that he can travel light.

He is clearly an aesthete. His sumptuous Mayfair offices, filled with antique silver and chamois sofas, reflect his tastes. A large austere portrait of one of Napoleon's generals dominates the wall above his enormous desk.

He refuses to reveal his net worth and says he cannot remember when he made his first million. He drives a Mercedes sports car and has a chauffeur-driven Bentley for visiting his shops.

Last year his salary was £664,303, including a £200,000 bonus, and his Ratners shares are worth £1.79 million. He has options worth more than £3 million.

In addition to a house by the Thames near Maidenhead, Berkshire, he has an elegant Mayfair townhouse that he shares with Moira and Sarah. His two older daughters from his 14-year first marriage to Angela Trup—Suzy and Lisa, aged 16 and 13—visit several times a week.

He says he is much more proud of his family than any business achievement and it is easy to imagine him getting on well with children. The rebellious, mischievous side of his personality, coupled with his daredevil nature, means he is a favourite father with his daughters' friends.

But he is a worrier. Moira says he is normally kind and easy-going, but can switch off for days at a time when his worried about something.

"I stay awake at night worrying," says Ratner. "There is always something. I worried we weren't going to do the Kay deal. Then we did the deal and I worried about that. Then I worried about the Kay junk bonds. I worry about business if we have a bad day. I worry about Salisbury's the whole bloody time. God knows what it is going to be like when things go wrong."

'I hope someone does to me what I did to my father. I'd love it if my daughter did that'

took it down-market. The first of the now familiar posters proclaimed that all watches were reduced. It worked and sales picked up.

When his parents returned, Ratner enacted his takeover plan. He told his father that the other directors wanted him to run the business and he told the other directors that it was his father's decision. Because of various internal feuds, he got away with it.

"It was the most difficult takeover I've ever done."

In April 1984, aged 35, he was sole managing director. He lost no time in embarking on an aggressive acquisition-driven strategy that has given him 2,600 shops, 900 of them in America. The group now includes H. Samuel, once his arch-rival, Zales, and Watches of Switzerland in Britain and Sterling in America.

Ratners may be one of the best performing shares of the retail sector over the past six years: even accounting for the frequent rights issues they have increased in value eight times. But the group is no stock market darling.

Ratner's relationship with his institutional shareholders is uneasy. It is his audacity and lack of fear that both thrill and frighten them. So far his daring has paid off, but like small children embarking on a rollercoaster ride, experience does not make them feel any more secure.

It does not help that Ratner tells his shareholders what he feels they want to hear. The most recent, and one of the most glaring examples, came with the departure of Andrew Coppel, his finance director, and the appointment of Gary O'Brien. Ratner announced that Coppel's departure, which he insisted was amicable, had come about because

driven by the fact that he hates to lose.

"I take it personally. If I make the right decisions I'll do better than my competitors. And I don't regard the other jewellers as competitors, because they're not."

"I regard the other retailers as competitors. Whether we beat the City's profit forecasts or not, doesn't make much difference to my finances, but it does make a lot of difference to my ego and my pride. There it is, in one word. Ego."

Ratner runs his business in the only way he knows how: he expands by gobbling up the competition. He cannot envisage a time when Ratners is not a big enough challenge, but he can envisage a time when jewellery is not.

"I could easily say I'll never diversify. The shareholders don't want me to. But we do want to diversify at some point, although we're not ready for it yet. We're taking on the monstrosity of 500 Kay stores that are in the most appalling mess. That will take two years to sort out."

"After five years we will look at diversification, but that could involve staying in jewellery and going into Europe, or possibly a different product."

If someone were to make a break-up bid for Sears in five years Ratner might be interested in British Shoe Corporation. But he insists he would not diversify for five years and he would want to have sorted out Salisbury's, his non-jewellery business.

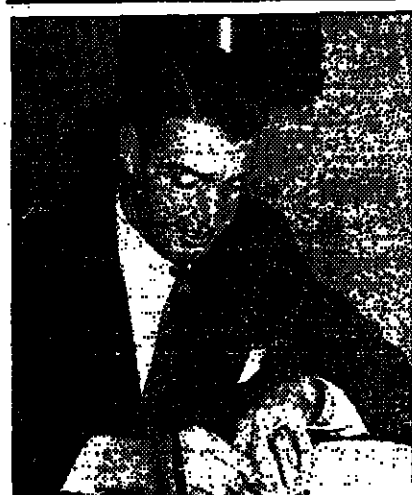
Ratner was sorely disappointed by the reaction to his mooted bid for Dixons, the electrical group, at the time Kingfisher made its bid this year. Shareholders were horrified and the share price of Ratners suffered.

"Dixons was a tremendous opportunity for someone," he says, "and Kingfisher was

Baseball cards outrun the money men

CAPITAL CITY

FROM JOHN DURIE IN NEW YORK



Joe Di Maggio: \$50 autograph

BASEBALL has long been sold to commercialism, but even this knowledge hardly excused the sight of young boys lining up in Atlantic City to buy Joe Di Maggio's autograph for \$50. The fact that the man who organised the event, Peter Rose, another albeit fallen baseball legend, is now doing time for tax evasion, did little for the sadness in this old autograph hunter's heart.

But this is America, free enterprise and all that, and famous autographs go for big money. It is part of the booming trade in sports memorabilia. They have even turned baseball cards into a billion dollar enterprise that through clever trading can now reap 40 per cent returns quicker than any hot tip your stockbroker may care to impart over evening Martinis.

Fifty thousand Americans packed into Arlington, Texas, last month for the simple purpose of seeing just which baseball card bargain they could find.

The National Baseball Card Convention was one of hundreds held around America in an industry that now boasts its own trade magazines, such as *Sports Collectors Digest*, and a string of baseball card societies.

All this for a set of cards that you can buy for 50 cents together with two pieces of chewing gum at the local grocery store. Like any big money game there is the usual host of dirty tricks, counterfeits, armed robberies, stolen cards and even death. Police are still searching for the person who apparently killed Frank Gove, a West Coast dealer, who was found slumped over his card collection this year, bludgeoned to death with a blunt object and with \$100,000 worth of cards missing.

The American economy is sinking into a recession and the best New York properties are now selling at 20 per cent

below last year's levels, but if you were lucky enough to buy Kevin Maas two months ago for five cents apiece, you could sell them today for \$5. Maas is the good-looking rookie first baseman who has walked into the struggling New York Yankees baseball team, built a cheer squad of thousands of screaming 15-year-old girls and hit ten home runs in a matter of weeks.

The cards must be in mint condition, be a first issue, and the player must be producing the goods on the field or be a former popular star. Last year a record

was set when a 1910 Honus Wagner was sold for \$100,000. Wagner did not like smoking and in his day the cards were given away in cigarette packs. He demanded the withdrawal of his cards and, unknowingly, created a limited edition set of Honus Wagner cards.

Topps, the market leader in new cards, lifted its profits by a third this year. It reported a \$37 million profit on sales of \$246 million, the bulk of which came from bubblegum packs of baseball cards.

The decade of greed, the Eighties, saw the real birth of the secondary market and any philosophical delving for the real reasons behind its creation can be put aside. It is simply a case of money begetting more money and a paper empire that shows no imminent signs of collapse.

Last decade the annual compound return for top quality baseball cards showed returns of 25 per cent, against US government bond issues that managed just a 14 per cent return and shares that returned 12.7 per cent.

Initial outlay is sometimes no more than 10 cents. The risk is that the player will not perform on the field, but at this level, while asset quality may be questionable, borrowing costs are usually not an issue.

In the big league the stakes are a little higher, with Mickey Mantle cards trading up from \$1,500 in 1983 to \$6,000 in 1987 and \$10,000 this year.

The hitch is to find a buyer. But there are more than 3,000 dealers in America and if you have the right product this should not be a problem.

Little wonder that with stockbroker bonuses well down, many are spending weekends delving into their childhood collections with the hope of finding just the card to produce an instant fortune.



Aggressive strategy: Gerald Ratner with a portrait of one of Napoleon's generals that adorns his office

A SAFE HAVEN FOR YOUR MONEY

If you are worried about the outlook for world stockmarkets, Mercury can provide a safe home for your money. Mercury Cash Trust is a low-risk investment in the form of a unit trust. Features include:

- HIGH RATES OF INTEREST
- INVESTMENT FROM £1,000
- INCOME TAX RECOVERABLE by non-taxpayers
- EASE OF WITHDRAWAL

For details, complete the coupon or call us on 071-280 2860

*Estimated gross Compound Annual Rate (CAR) as at 15.8.90 with net income re-invested and after current charges, for investors able to reclaim tax. This is paid net of basic-rate tax and is equivalent to 11.2% CAR for basic-rate taxpayers.

THE MERCURY CASH TRUST

To: Mercury Fund Managers Ltd, FREEPOST, London EC4B 4DQ. Please send me details of Mercury Cash Trust

Surname _____

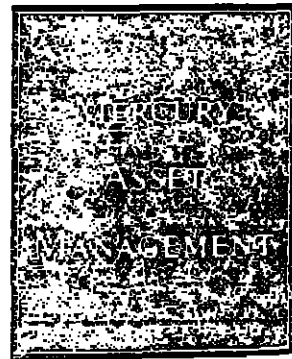
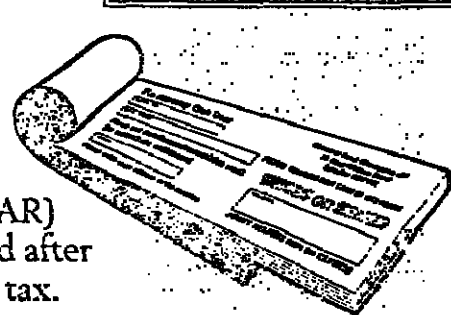
(Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

The Manager, Mercury Fund Managers Ltd, is a member of (IMR), (LAUTRO) and the UTA

15.1%*
CAR



Sellers put faith in part-exchange to help beat sluggish property market

Builders offer trade-in deals on old homes

By BARBARA ELLIS

SUMMARY

Lowndes helpline is set up

A TELEPHONE helpline has been set up to assist the thousands of people who, having paid deposits to Lowndes Queensway for carpets and furniture, are anxiously waiting to find out if they will recover their money. The helpline can be contacted on 0689 895300, 0689 895140 and 0689 895208 during office hours.

The group took out an insurance policy to cover customer deposits in January, but it may not be enough when administration costs have been taken into account. Other furniture buyers have less cover despite pressure from the Office of Fair Trading. Page 42

Fearless fighter



Gerald Ratner admits to being ruthless, aggressive, impatient and ambitious, but he also told Gillian Bowditch that he worries constantly. Now, he has the £234 million Kay Jewelers chain to keep him fretful. Page 43

Lost homes

A record number of people had their homes possessed in the first six months of the year. Half did not wait for a court order before handing over the keys. A small but growing number are trying to offload property losses on to lenders when they can still afford payments. Page 38

Watchful eye

Burglars are having an easy time in some parts of the country. Crime statistics published this week for London showed that in more than a quarter of reported burglaries the intruder entered through an unlocked window or door. Such carelessness is pushing up the cost of home insurance. But homeowners who are members of neighbourhood watch schemes can win reductions. Page 39

Your views

Take away the number you first thought of... don't tell me. GED

A telephone line that is being charged for twice, lost bonus shares, more problems with direct debits and solutions for Scots wanting to cash cheques south of the border are dealt with by readers. Page 41

Gulf watchers

It is a nervous time for fund managers who are watching developments in the Gulf while deciding where to put their money. Page 40

Oil share deal

As the BP share price has soared above its 1987 offer price, some investors may be thinking about selling. A special dealing service is launched on Monday by the Norwich & Peterborough Building Society to help those who bought the oil company's shares through the government flotation. Page 42

Secure credit

Banks are making more checks on credit card applications to make sure that multiple applications are not going out to several companies from the same address. Barclaycard is spotting 30 fraudulent applications a week since it joined the Credit Industry Fraud Avoidance System. Page 42

OS

D 5

PART-EXCHANGE has long helped motor dealers to sell expensive new models, and now the method is being widely adopted by builders to entice buyers for their houses.

It means that builders currently have thousands of second-hand properties on their books that they may be prepared to sell at bargain prices.

The builders who will take in existing properties usually insist home buyers purchase a more expensive house than they already own. In return the schemes promise speed of completion and savings on stamp duty, estate agency and legal fees.

Customers have to cut their selling price substantially and may be charged a fee as well. They may also be expected to use a specified lender or broker to arrange the mortgage. And builders usually stipulate that the properties they take in are within a certain distance, commonly 15 to 30 miles, of the new house.

"Obviously, you can't do this with properties at the bottom of the scale," said Grace Charlton-Brown, of Alfred McAlpine Homes. The company normally sets a guideline that the value of a prospective buyer's existing house should be no more than 60 per cent of the new property's value.

Alfred McAlpine has recently been selling about 80 per cent of its houses priced at £200,000 and above on a part-exchange basis. It obtains two independent valuations of the property it is to buy and bases its offer on these.

"If the agents say it is worth £110,000, the owner could market it at that and expect an offer of £105,000," said Mrs Charlton-Brown. McAlpine would offer the same.

"We would remarket it at £102,000 or £103,000, but we could finish by coming down to below £100,000," she said, pointing out that any loss on the sale would be offset by the company's profit on the new house. Where a property is taken in part-exchange, builders usually expect them to pay the full price for the new one.

"They can't have it both ways," said Mrs Charlton-Brown, but noted that in some cases McAlpine had given reductions on the price of the new house.

Barratt Developments sold between 2,000 and 3,000 properties in part-exchanges last year. Each case is taken on its merits, but a spokesman gave a sample of the arithmetic of an exchange.

"We frequently make a deduction of about 8 per cent to cover our costs, but it can be demonstrated that this does not leave an individual any worse off than with a conventional sale," he said.

Someone selling a house valued at £56,000 and moving to a Barratt house priced at £80,000 would have proceeds of £51,520 after the 8 per cent deduction, but would be saving about £150 in legal fees, bringing the equivalent value to £51,670, he said.

As the move would be struc-

tured as an exchange and the difference between the two house prices would be less than £30,000, there would be savings of £800 on stamp duty and £1,288 on estate agent's fees, including VAT.

Also, a property valued at £56,000 would probably be reduced to £55,000 for a quick sale in the open market. He put the cost of a conventional sale, therefore, at £4,088, or 7.3 per cent, against Barratt's top charge of 8 per cent.

Westbury Homes, based in Cardiff, is currently part-exchanging about 66 of its houses a year. The company will make offers based on between 90 per cent to 95 per cent of the average of two valuations. Although the firm preferred people to be moving up in house value by about 20 per cent, it would consider a narrower margin.

Wimpey Homes is selling more than 300 houses a year through part-exchange, according to Eddy Marsh, the group's part-exchange controller.

Wimpey has no set rule on what percentage of a valuation it will offer on a buyer's existing house. This could vary from 100 per cent on some sites to 92 per cent on others. On average, the company was reselling the properties it took in part-exchange within two to four weeks.

Galliford Sears, of Banstead, Surrey, has a target of 200 part-exchange sales for this year, compared with 135 last year. On most of its sites, it specifies that the value of a customer's existing house must be 75 per cent or less than the value of the new house, but slow-moving retirement flats are an exception. It will take in properties worth 25 per cent more than the flat being sold.

It also obtains two valuations of the customer's existing property.

"The agents tell us what sort of price they think they would need to get a sale within four weeks," Mark Byatt, of Galliford Sears, said. "It's different from an open market price, because we are taking in a property on the basis of having to get rid of it."

The firm has no fixed percentage fee, but makes individual offers based on its costs. Buyers put down a £350 deposit when applying for the exchange, but their cheques are not banked and are returned if the deal falls through.

"About 30 per cent of people don't accept our offer and it doesn't cost them anything," said Mr Byatt.

BRIAN Dawson, a carpet cleaning contractor, had almost given up the idea of moving because of the state of the housing market when they saw a Galliford Sears development in Tadworth, Surrey, and heard about the part-exchange scheme.

Two agents valued Mr Dawson's house: one at £200,000, the other at £180,000. Galliford Sears made an offer of £162,500.

"I gasped a bit and they gave me £12,500 off the new house," said



Fees paid: Jackie Sherriff (right) and Christine Baker exchanged contracts within three weeks

Mr Dawson. This brought the £262,500 price of the house down to the £250,000 valuation of the new house given by his own agent.

"This is the seventh move in our married life and it is going to be the easiest," he said.

MARGARET Elton, a business service manager for a cosmetics company, wanted a quick way of moving from Reading, Berkshire, to Bournemouth, Dorset, in March after a change of job.

She and her husband put their house on the market but attracted no response. By mid-April they decided on part-exchange. She checked on 20 builders within her target area.

"I was very sceptical to be

honest, I expected builders to value the property at way below what it was worth."

However, the valuer employed by Galliford Sears gave a valuation that was identical to that of the Eltons' original agent, and the price eventually offered was not much lower. They also gained in buying, as Galliford Sears accepted an offer 3 per cent less than the stated price of the new house.

The Eltons finally moved in the third week of June. Their initial contact with the company had been two months earlier. Although she thought part-exchange was the best way of moving for someone wanting a new house, Mrs Elton cautioned that builders tend to

offer houses that have been on the market for some time.

The Eltons also obtained a mortgage at 9.9 per cent, fixed for two years, arranged by the builder via the Woolwich. Three years' free mortgage protection insurance was included.

KEN Brearton, aged 34, who works for Bupa, moved from a terraced cottage in Withington, Manchester, to a three-bedroom semi-detached Barratt house in Warrington, Cheshire. In this part-exchange he sold for £42,500 and bought for £72,500.

"The Barratt deal was that if they sold my house within four weeks they wouldn't charge any commission. If they didn't the

commission would be 8 per cent," he said. The house sold within four days.

Mr Brearton was also given a two-year mortgage subsidy from Barratt, bringing his rate down to 7.5 per cent on the first £40,000, a saving of about £160 a month.

MARTIN Jenkins, aged 27, a sales manager for a pharmaceutical company, is on the point of exchanging one Westbury-built house for another. Going from a three-bedroom semi-detached house to a four-bedroom detached house in the Cardiff area, he is trading up by about £30,000.

Westbury gave us a very good deal: we had something like 94 per cent of the selling price valuation," said Mr Jenkins, stressing the difference between the market price, which did not necessarily imply a sale, and the selling price, which did.

Westbury also offered him £2,000 to £3,000 to pay for a shower, which was not included in the house he chose.

"It was completely out of the blue. I'm sure they don't do it for everyone," he said.

MAURICE and Dora Mullins made a part-exchange by moving from a three-bedroom bungalow to a lower value two-bedroomed Barratt retirement flat in Hampshire.

"We thought it was normal, but I don't think any of the others here have traded down," said Mr Mullins, a retired senior planning inspector with the environment department.

The Mullins' bungalow "much too big for the wife and the children", had been on the market for six months at £130,000 when Mr Mullins approached Barratt about a part-exchange. They agreed a price of £115,000 for the bungalow against £100,000 for the flat, and Mr Mullins paid Barratt a fee of £5,000.

The bungalow sold quickly. "We moved in on December 20 and the chap who had taken our bungalow moved in just after Christmas," he said.

JACKIE Sherriff and Christine Baker moved to Newport, Gwent, to a property that cost £46,000 more than the one they sold.

Their previous house was valued at £78,000 and Westbury offered them £72,000. The builder also paid their solicitors' fees and stamp duty, as the new property was priced over £30,000 more than the exchanged one.

"You actually lose a bit of money," said Ms Sherriff, "but we only really wanted this particular house. We wouldn't have moved otherwise." They exchanged contracts within three weeks and their previous house sold in six.

ONE part-exchanger, who dealt with Alfred McAlpine, was allowed the option to keep her property on the market until the completion of the part-exchange. She was asking £10,000 more than the builder's offer. Of the five people who viewed one was interested but could not afford the property. They eventually bought it from McAlpine for the lower price.



Satisfied customer: Brian Dawson was offered £12,500 off his new house by the builder

Breaking the house chain

THERE is almost no market at present for services offering to break the chain of buyers and sellers that links up around the majority of property transactions.

Estate agents are reluctant to step in as buyers while prices are falling, and sellers are unwilling to lose more than is absolutely necessary.

A spokesman for Prudential Property Services' chainbreaking service said that the scheme had not been used much lately.

"It is not a particularly attractive offer," she said, pointing out that the cost would be well over 10 per cent of the selling price of the property.

This is because to break the chain, Prudential would pay its own estimate of the resale price on the property, less its likely costs,

which would run to interest on the purchase price until the resale, the group's legal costs and supervision and insurance costs on the empty property plus agency expenses on reselling.

"Although some transactions may involve losses and others gains, the scheme is designed to do no more than break even," the Prudential's leaflet says.

Another proviso is that the Prudential will only offer chainbreaking where a chain actually exists, and if the property has been sold to contract through a final exclusive agency arrangement with the group. "We will not offer to purchase a property which has failed to attract a serious offer," the group says.

Sellers have to pay their own legal fees. The Prudential insists

that the seller hires a qualified valuer for advice on the sale — and pays his fee. But the group says it will refund two thirds of a standard scale fee. However, there is no way of escaping the disbursements if these are provided for in the seller's original agreement with the Prudential's estate agency.

The Prudential only agrees to buy after completing legal enquiries and if it is certain that at least one other sale will result through its estate agency. As a final irritation, the Prudential requires viewing access to the property even after it has signed to buy.

Black Horse agencies, a former competitor of the Prudential in chainbreaking, pulled out of the service 18 months ago.

UP TO

16%

GROSS P.A.

AN EXCEPTIONAL NEW OPPORTUNITY FOR DISCERNING INVESTORS

Invest £3,000 or more in our new Premier Investment Account and you'll earn very high interest.

And the rate is even better for investments of £15,000 or more which will benefit from a gross interest rate currently at 16% p.a., while smaller sums in excess of £3,000 will earn 15.5% p.a. And these interest rates are guaranteed to remain at least 4% above our standard deposit rate.

For non taxpayers, interest is payable gross annually on

April 6th. If you're a taxpayer, however, you will receive interest on 6th April 1991 of 12.48% net p.a. for balances of £15,000 or over, and 12.09% net p.a. for balances between £3,000 and £14,999.

Furthermore, unlike many other high interest accounts, a Premier Investment Account gives you instant access to your money. You can withdraw up to 50% of your balance, once a year, with no penalty provided a balance of

£3,000 remains.

To open an account, return the form with a cheque for your chosen amount. Or for more details, call our Customer Services department on:

0753 516 516

Bank of Ireland was established by Royal Charter in 1783. Assets exceed £12 billion. Savings deposited in this account are held in Sterling in Great Britain.

FOR NON TAXPAYERS

☐ I/we hereby declare that I/we will provide the necessary self-certification documents to qualify for gross interest.

Full Name(s) _____

1. (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) _____

2. (Mr, Mrs, Miss, Ms) _____

(To open a joint account both parties should complete and sign below.)

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel. No. _____

Signature(s) _____

Please return your completed form to: Customer Services, Bank of Ireland, FREEPOST, Greenhouse House, 48-50 High Street, North, Berkshire SL1 1BP. (Please use)

☐ I/we wish to open a Premier Investment Account on the full terms and conditions applicable thereto, and enclose a cheque for £ _____ (minimum £3,000), payable to 'Bank of Ireland' and drawn on an account in my/our name(s).

☐ I/we are interested in opening a Premier Investment Account. Please send me more information and an application form.

Importance in Ireland with Limited Liability, Bank No. C-1, Premier's New Lower Rates Scheme 1990.